Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you plan to attend any of the sessions in the ongoing 26th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference at the Saipan World Resort?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of June 23, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

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Chris Brown has pleaded guilty to one count of felony assault on pop star Rihanna.

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'Climate change is already here'

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 acting administrator Laura Yoshii, Guam EPA board chair George Lai, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, and CNMI Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos at yesterday's opening of the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe. The three-day conference, focused on climate change, is being co-hosted by the U.S. EPA and the governments of the CNMI, Guam and American Samoa.

Top EPA official: Islands may be model for energy conservation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tiny island nations in the Pacific are now feeling the impact of rising sea levels linked to climate change—from disappearing coastal villages to washed-out shores, flooded streets and taro patches, landslides and contamination of drinking water—even as the rest of the world are still thinking that climate change is far off into the future.

RELATED NEWS

CNMI only has 57 certified water operators. **PAGE 2**

Military buildup worries Guam environmental groups. **PAGE 6**

Expert: Energy production should be decentralized. **PAGE 6**

"It's happening. Climate change is no longer a future thing. It's already here, it's already on our shores," said Joe Konno of the Federated States of Micronesia's National Office of Environment and Emergency Management during yesterday's opening of the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Saipan World Resort.

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Islanders lament loss of lands to higher tides

By ANITA B. HOFSCHNEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Children sit on the edge of a porch, their feet dangling in the water. A two-story house sits apparently undisturbed, except for the seawater reaching up its doorway. Coral stretches across an ocean floor, its vibrant colors bleached a uniform white.

These were just a few of the images presented at yesterday afternoon's sessions on climate change at the 26th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference. Over 500 people attended nine sessions on the first official day of the forum.

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Camacho to raise issue of alleged harassment at Guam's airport

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho yesterday said he will bring up with federal authorities the issue of alleged harassment of CNMI travelers at the Guam airport, and encourages the CNMI government to do the same.

Customs and immigration personnel on Guam are federal employees and are not under the au-

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Japanese tourist drowns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Japanese tourist drowned while swimming with his wife at a beach in front of Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan Saturday afternoon.

Munenori Yanagihara, 30, was pronounced dead by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center at 5:48pm on that day, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

DPS spokesman Jason T. Tarkong said that a person called the emergency hotline on Saturday at 5:14pm to report the drowning incident.

When police officers arrived at the beach, they saw a Japanese tourist lying motionless

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Local

CNMI only has 57 certified water operators

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

With an estimated population of 65,000 on Saipan, Rota and Tinian, the CNMI only has 57 certified water operators on all three islands, according to the Division of Environmental Quality. This translates to almost one operator for every thousand people, or just about -0.1 percent of the population is a certified water operator.

In a presentation yesterday at the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference before a nearly a hundred participants, DEQ's Juliana de la Rosa said the division had issued certificates to over 70 individuals but some recipients have already left the island and their certificates have expired.

Others, De la Rosa said, opted not to renew their water certifications, resulting in only 57 active water operators as of this month.

Due to the agency's sanitary survey program, the inspection of every water system has resulted in a demand for more certified operators in the CNMI. As of June 2009, DEQ said it has already administered 120 exams for potential certified water operators on the islands.

To date, the CNMI has 85 active public water systems, or PWS, De la Rosa said. Among these active PWS are the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. which operates the piped water utility on each island; Hyatt Regency Saipan, which has a water treatment plant that produces over 100,000 gallons daily; Hafa Dai Beach Hotel, DFS Galleria, Price Costco, and McDonald's.

The CNMI recorded a peak of 120 active public water systems during the heyday of the garment industry.

"The problem is that local utility could not keep with the rapid growth in the late 1980s so many businesses and residences had to produce their own water," de la Rosa said, adding that many PWS closed down when the garment industry disappeared.

DEQ said there are 13 bottled water companies that it regulates as PWS.

"Water provided by the local utility meets all of the primary drinking water standards but is too salty to drink. Since everyone uses the bottled water as their primary source of drinking water, DEQ considers them public water systems and makes sure that they comply with safe drinking water regulations," de la Rosa said.

DEQ adopted new drinking water regulations in July 2005 that requires all public water systems to be operated by a certified operator effective Jan. 1, 2006. It then authorized the establishment of the CNMI Water Operator Certification Program to assist applicants.

In the late 1990s and early 2000, compliance was very poor in all aspects of drinking water regulations, prompting CNMI-DEQ to require water operators to be certified, but not as a requirement under the drinking water regulation.

De la Rosa said that they then coordinated with Guam-EPA to certify the CNMI water operators, which was administered in February 2002.

When DEQ became a member of the Association of Board Certifications in 2007, the CNMI offered its online water operator exam. DEQ collects a $51 fee for both the test and certificate of applicants.

To get the first level water operator certification, one must complete high school education and at least one year experience working at a public water system.

It imposes penalties and fines of up to $25,000 to public water systems that are noncompliant or found operating with non-certified water operators.

To help water operators maintain their full certification, a group was formed to assist them—Mariana Islands Water Operators Association.

Through membership, trainings and technical assistance are provided to member operators to maintain their certification.

Early this month, DEQ disclosed that it has signed an agreement with the ABC to conduct and administer the wastewater treatment and wastewater collection online testing on island.

"We hope by end of this month to offer the online testing for this area," de la Rosa said.

New zoning administrator hits the ground running

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Newly hired Saipan Zoning administrator Victor Barrett started his first day in office on Monday, a few days after arriving from Arizona.

Barrett said he met with Gov. Benigno Fitial and members of the Legislature and joined the CNMI State Environment Plan steering committee meeting on the same day.

The meeting was part of the CNMI Energy Summit, a pre-conference for the ongoing 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Saipan World Resort.

"I'm glad to be back and I have just started with my job," said Barrett, who has been regularly attending the PIEC sessions.

He is set to release an important announcement regarding zoning issues today.

Barrett was selected from a list of 20 applicants during a meeting on May 7 by members of the Zoning Board and he visited Saipan a week later. He returned to the islands last week.

The position was left vacant after former Zoning administrator Steve Tilley resigned due to family matters.

Barrett has over 30 years of experience in urban planning, architecture, and design. He has previously worked in Belize, Mexico.

He vowed to work closely with the local community in his new post.

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

PSS to hire subs for short-term replacement, emergencies

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System may continue to tap the services of substitute teachers if it doesn't get the desired number of full-time teachers in all its 20 campuses next school year.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan emphasized with the *Saipan Tribune,* however, that it's the system's priority to hire full-time classroom teachers to ensure the continuity of learning in all schools.

Sablan said PSS is exhausting all avenues right now to recruit full-time teachers to prevent the system from relying too much on substitutes, who serve at a very limited time.

"Our intent is to recruit more teachers so we don't need to get the services of substitutes who have only short-term contracts [with PSS]," Sablan said.

She said it is only during "urgent needs" like emergency leaves of absences that PSS hires short-term teacher substitutes.

Substitute teachers are those with either a bachelor's or associate's degree but have not passed the Praxis tests, as required by the PSS compensation plan for teachers. Those with a bachelor's degree are paid $100 daily, while those with associate's degree get $60 a day.

These substitutes are provided short-term contracts—from a week's service to a semester—depending on the recommendation of the school principal that needs the service replacement. Their stay at public schools also depends on the "position" they temporarily replaced. Unlike regular full-time classroom teachers, substitutes are not entitled to any benefits except for retirement, which is mandated by law. It's also a no-work, no-pay position.

PSS has three classifications for classroom teachers: highly qualified teachers, non-highly qualified teachers, and substitute teachers.

Although the system also hires teacher aides and assistants, these positions do not fall under the classroom teacher category.

A teacher aide in public schools is usually a high school graduate with some required college credits.

PSS hires about 20 substitute teachers each school year, mostly during emergency leaves, resignations, and retirements.

Based on the PSS compensation plan for teachers, a non-HQT teacher receives $27,911 to $28,000 per annum, while it provides up to $47,000 for those who meet the maximum qualification set by the Board of Education.

Last school year, PSS had about 500 teachers, about 66 percent of whom were highly qualified—with degrees, Praxis, and valid certifications.

Businesswoman wins Joeten's grand prize

Matilde Orcasitas, a local entrepreneur, was named the grand prize winner in Joeten Enterprises' Mega Giveaways promo during Saturday's raffle draw held at the Joeten Susupe branch.

"I'm still in shock. I can't believe it," said a jubilant Orcasitas, who couldn't help hugging her prize, a gleaming, brand new Nissan Versa.

The lucky winner said she had a dream that she had won the car and was completely ecstatic to finally learn that among tens of thousands of participants she was the big winner.

Orcasitas said that she shops loyally at the several Joeten outlets like Ace Hardware, Price Costco, and the Athlete's Foot.

"I'm so proud of Joeten and their commitment to the CNMI," she said.

Orcasitas' ticket came from Price Costco where she always shops for her business.

The Mega Giveaways promo was intended to celebrate Joeten Enterprises' 60th anniversary this year.

The Nissan Versa was only one of two Grand Prizes Joeten Enterprises planned to give away this year. To show its gratitude to the people of the CNMI for 60 years of service, Joeten announced that it will hold another Grand Prize Car raffle at the end of this year. ***(PR)***

From left, Soledad Tenorio, Julian Reyes, Mike Yang, Matt Deets, Clarence Tenorio, Matilde Orcasitas, her daughter, Darlene Macaranas, Dolly Muna, Claudia Adriano, JJ Tenorio, and Bo Palacios pose for a group picture after awarding Orcasitas with a new Nissan Versa as the grand prize winner in Joeten's Mega Giveaways promo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ex-lawmaker Ada's lawsuit vs Fund is dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A lawsuit filed by former representative Martin B. Ada against the NMI Retirement Fund in federal court for allegedly reducing his retirement benefits has been dismissed.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson dismissed Ada's lawsuit without prejudice or without finality, based upon an agreement by the parties to dismiss the case.

Munson dismissed as moot any and all pending motions in the case. He ordered that the parties in the case shall bear their own court costs and attorney's fees.

The judge closed the case file.

Ada sued the Fund's board of trustees, board chair Juan T. Guerrero, and Fund administrator Mark Aguon in April for alleged violation of his rights under the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions and conversion.

Ada asked the court to order the defendants to pay him damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

According to the complaint, Ada began to work as a CNMI employee in 1978 and in 1997 he took advantage of an "early out" retirement program. Subsequently, Ada began to receive retirement benefits.

In June 2000, Ada left retirement and took a position as a representative.

For this period of time, Ada's retirement benefits ceased, but he began to accrue more time applicable to his eventual retirement.

Ada argued that he began to accrue additional benefits applicable to his eventual retirement because of his position as an elected legislator.

In 2008, Ada again retired and at that point he had accrued over 25 years of time for which he was and is, due retirement benefits.

On Feb 29, 2008 Fund administrator Aguon wrote a letter to Ada, authorizing the retirement benefits that Ada would begin to receive from the Fund.

Upon receiving this letter, Ada discovered that his retirement benefits were much lower than what he was due.

On June 2, Ada, Aguon, and Guerrero, through their respective lawyers, filed a stipulation or agreement that requested the court to dismiss the lawsuit. The parties agreed that Ada will pursue administrative remedies within the Fund.

The parties agreed that the lawsuit will be dismissed to allow the exhaustion of such administrative remedies. They agreed to shoulder their own costs and attorney's fees incurred in the case.

Coconut Club
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CLIMATE

From Page 1

Konno showed conference participants pictures of disappearing coastlines and a washed out graveyard on one of the atolls in the FSM to dramatize his point.

"There seems to be reluctance to accepting climate change. I believe it's about time not to wait. We have to start… We need political will," he said.

Dr. Cheryl Anderson of the University of Hawaii's Social Science Research Institute and Konno also said that climate change data are outdated, given the time that had elapsed between peer review and publication. They stressed that more needs to be done to help tiny island communities adapt to rising sea level.

Anderson cited some of the people and livelihood impacts from climate change, including diminished water supply, lack of food security, increase in waterborne diseases; increased hardships to people, and erosion of cultural and sacred lands.

Emission cuts

FSM's Konno said the Association of Small Island States is pushing for a 45-percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, which is much higher than the 20 percent many other countries are advocating in international forums.

In his presentation, Konno said the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in Rio has "no teeth," and the targets set by the Kyoto Protocol are "too low."

"The 45 percent [reduction] is what we're fighting for," said Konno.

Model communities

U.S. EPA Region 9 acting administrator Laura Yoshii, the highest federal official at the conference, said island communities can be a model for energy conservation.

"Island people, with some education and outreach, can understand the finite resources," she said in an interview during a break at the conference.

Yoshii said island communities can also take the lead in energy independence.

"Instead of paying so much for imported oil—the prices are not going to be stable, or increasing—think of ways to conserve energy and use renewable energy," she said.

Experts at the conference have said that the Pacific areas can easily tap into renewable energy sources such as wind and sun.

Behavioral change

During an open discussion on the climate change panel, a member of the audience voiced out concern that environmental conferences almost always forget behavioral change to help alter the course of climate change.

Another member of the audience, a resident of American Samoa, called for a "back to basics" approach in dealing with climate change like doing away with vehicles.

But Konno said while this is a good suggestion, curtailing the use of vehicles, especially F150 trucks in island communities, will not make an impact because greenhouse gas emissions from these areas, excluding the CNMI and Guam, is less than 1 percent of the world rate. Instead, he recommends going after the big emitters such as the United States.

A future without oil

Gil Masters, author and emeritus professor of environmental engineering and science at Stanford University and keynote speaker at the conference, focused on "planning for a future without oil."

"How do we plan the future without much cheap oil? Yes, there are lots of oil out there but can the rate by which we exploit these resources…keep up with the demand?" asked Masters.

In presenting his calculation, Masters said if crude oil reaches $200 a barrel, then one can expect to pay $7 a gallon for diesel or 40 cents per kilowatt hours of energy.

Masters said the first step in planning for the future without much cheap oil is setting a goal.

"Minimum dependence on imported fuel in the CNMI and other Pacific island nations by 2030 based on efficient use of energy and renewable energy systems, and create some sort of a plan with a short-term, medium-term and long-term implication," he said.

He also recommended a focus on demand for fuel rather than the supply of fuel.

"Another key thing is to shift our attention from a supply-side solution to a demand-side solution," he said.

To further illustrate his point of energy sufficiency, Masters used as an example the Saipan World Resort where the conference is being held. He said the hotel has the wrong orientation for energy efficiency but has the right orientation for tourism because the windows face the ocean. Almost all CNMI hotels windows face the oceans which is one of the islands' tourism resources.

CNMI, Guam strides

Yoshii said the CNMI has come a long way in improving access to drinking water and wastewater infrastructure since the last time she visited the islands 12 years ago, although there are still a lot to be done to have a 24-hour drinking water.

She also pointed out the presence of environmental professionals. "They now have a whole Division of Environmental Quality when before, it was just a handful of people. Now they really have people with expertise to deal with some of those [environmental] issues," she said.

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, in a separate interview, said Guam has been cited by the EPA for over 23 years for its solid waste problems but under his administration, the island closed the Ordot Dump and secured funding to build a new landfill.

"We've been successful in that endeavor, and we have had to borrow up to $202 million combined for this endeavor. It's very costly. Because it was never addressed in years past, the cost, of course, has risen over time," he said.

The Guam governor also takes pride in the marine preserves that have led to increased fish stock in the island's reefs.

"It's helping to improve our reef and ecosystem, but the work is never ending. It must continue for generations. If we can preserve what we still have and hopefully restore what's been lost," he added.

Pay attention

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos said it is encouraging to see that climate change is being addressed at local, regional and international levels.

"The long term effects of global climate change can directly affect us in the future. We can be adversely affected by rising water levels. Our coastal areas, including this hotel, could become flooded or submerged years later. We must pay attention," Inos said.

Panelists

John McCarroll, manager of EPA Region 9's Pacific Islands Office, along with CNMI Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman also delivered their welcoming remarks. Through a videotape, Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan also was able to address the hundreds of conference participants.

Other panelists at the morning session yesterday were Mark Lander of the University of Guam and Deborah Jordan, director of EPA Region 9 Air Division.

The conference, which has the theme "Climate of Change: Energizing a Sustainable Future for Pacific Islands," is co-hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the governments of the CNMI, Guam and American Samoa.

It will continue today and wrap up on Thursday with several field trips.

ISLANDERS

From Page 1

Many were present to listen to Ben Namakin, executive director of the Pacific Islands Climate Revolution, as he spoke on why he seeks to spread awareness and engage youth on the issue of climate change.

"I just cannot see myself being relocated somewhere else," he said. "I think it's not too late."

Namakin's home of Pohnpei has been losing land as the sea level rises.

"One of my favorite places is now two islands," said Namakin. "I visited the family who owns the land. The woman was crying because the place where her grandfather was buried is now underwater."

Namakin described the need to educate and motivate Pacific island youth to make their voices heard.

"We contribute less than 1 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, yet we are paying the price," he said. "Our very existence lies upon sea and land resources. We are still here. We can do something about it. It's never too late."

Namakin joined other speakers who addressed climate change and the methods by which it can be confronted.

Trina Leberer, Micronesia program director of the Nature Conservatory, suggested site-based planning and the creation of protected area networks as two methods of helping the region adapt to change.

Yimnang Golbuu, chief researcher at the Palau International Coral Reef Center, described how Palau is working to manage coral bleaching on its northern reefs. He emphasized careful analysis and community involvement.

"You cannot say this is management and this is community," he said, "because the management is the community."

Ben Machol, manager of the Clean Energy and Climate Change Office of the Environmental Protection Agency Region 9, also spoke about the need for quantifying the environmental impact of greenhouse emissions.

"As you do an assessment, you can make better decisions," he said.

He stressed the need for the Pacific to determine where the emissions are coming from in order to identify how they can be reduced. He presented a breakdown of California's emissions compared to a breakdown of U.S. emissions because similar information for Pacific islands is unavailable.

Peter Houk, a coral biologist who worked for the Division of Environmental Quality for many years, said the effects of climate change on the CNMI are already visible.

He cited climate-induced bleaching that occurred in 2000, 2003, and 2004 as one example. Receding shorelines and unusually large storms are further impacts, he said.

Houk said the CNMI can combat climate change by maintaining healthy water and fish and by reducing pollution.

"You have to create conditions where recovery can occur really easily," said Houk. Spikes in water temperature that trigger coral bleaching occur in cycles, allowing a period of recovery to take place.

PIEC is sponsored by the U.S. EPA and the governments of the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa. The conference will continue all day today and Thursday.

JAPANESE

From Page 1

and face up on the sand, Tarkong said. Two bystanders were seen trying to resuscitate the victim, later identified as Yanagihara.

Police officer Kelly Camacho checked on Yanagihara and noticed that he had no pulse and was not breathing. Camacho also saw bubbles and white liquid coming from the victim's nose and mouth.

Camacho helped in the effort to revive the victim until DPS medics arrived. Failing to revive the tourist, the medics rushed Yanagihara to the hospital, where a doctor pronounced him dead on arrival.

Police learned that Yanagihara and his wife arrived on Saipan on Saturday and checked in at the Hyatt Regency.

At 4pm, the couple went swimming at the Hyatt beach. Yanagihara and his wife were about a foot away from each other when they started struggling because their feet could no longer touch the bottom.

The wife was able to get back to shallow water but when she looked back, she saw her husband already floating face down in the water.

The wife ran ashore and asked for help from Jeffrey C. Repeki, an employee of the Island Blue Marine.

Repeki saw the victim floating face down in the water about 100 yards from the shoreline. Repeki went into the water, but noticed that the victim had no pulse and was not breathing anymore.

Repeki brought the victim to shore where he and a co-employee tried to resuscitate him.

Police said Yanagihara and his wife were scheduled to go back to Japan yesterday, Tuesday.

Last Dec. 30, a Korean tourist drowned after he fell from a cliff line at Dump Coke, a fishing area on Tinian.

On Dec. 23, a Japanese tourist drowned while he was swimming with his daughter at Micro Beach in Garapan, Saipan.

Last Nov. 22, a fishing boat crewmember reportedly drowned when he fell into the ocean near the island of Guguan.

CAMACHO

From Page 1

thority of the local government.

"We have to ensure that our federal partners will work along with us, that there's no room for a sense of bigotry or prejudice or use of abusive language or mistreatment of citizens or any visitors to the Marianas, be it Guam or Saipan," Camacho said in an interview at yesterday's opening of the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Saipan World Resort.

Some CNMI travelers, including businessmen, green card holders and other travelers who enter or transit through Guam, have claimed they were harassed at the Guam airport by immigration and other enforcement officers.

One of them, a Japanese businessman who is in charge of multi-million investments in the CNMI for years, had to endure hearing foul language and rude gestures from a Guam airport enforcement officer.

Another green card holder, also of Japanese descent, was held for hours at the Guam airport despite showing his travel documents early on and was also subjected to verbal abuse.

Camacho said even if the federal authorities are the responsible authority at the Guam airport, the local government must ensure the matter "is addressed with the higher authorities both locally on Guam and regionally and nationally, if necessary."

The Guam governor said he intends to also discuss the issue with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and determine the steps necessary on the part of the government of Guam to raise the matter with federal authorities. He said while enforcement officers are federal authorities, the incident of alleged harassment happened in Guam.

"As the letter was addressed by the CNMI Senate president and House speaker to the governor of the Northern Marianas, I certainly would encourage the CNMI government to bring this issue up with the federal authorities on the alleged behavior and mistreatment of these individuals," Camacho added.

The Guam governor said he is "alarmed by the nature of the complaint" contained in the letter addressed by Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) to Fitial. The letter calls for an investigation into alleged harassment of CNMI travelers at the Guam airport.

On Monday, Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) presented to Camacho a copy of the letter. Benavente, along with Rep. Rosemond Santos (R-Saipan) was in Guam Monday afternoon for a board meeting of the Pacific Island Development Bank.

Victims of the alleged harassment are hoping that raising the issue with government officials will help prevent future harassment of CNMI travelers entering or transiting Guam.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. had said the report is "disconcerting and I expect our administration to share the concerns of the presiding officers of the Legislature."

26 cops OK'd to join suit vs DPS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman allowed yesterday 26 police officers to join the lawsuit filed by a police official versus the Department of Public Safety for alleged discrimination in promoting and hiring police officers.

Wiseman ruled that judicial economy would be better served by joining the 26 officers to Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero's lawsuit, without first requiring them to seek administrative remedies.

The judge pointed out that Deleon Guerrero's grievance was ignored several times before reaching the Civil Service Commission.

"To require 26 similarly situated officers to plod through the same administrative course of action would be illogical. The course of action that DPS undertook with plaintiff Guerrero leads this court to believe that such action would be futile," Wiseman said.

Deleon Guerrero's lawyer, Robert T. Torres, said at least 26 hardworking DPS officers, along with many others in government, have been frozen in salary increases and promotions while others, "for reasons unknown, unclear or unfair, have jumped ahead of the line."

"The court has allowed their joinder with Deleon Guerrero to move the case forward to insist on a remedy of fairness or *'trata parehu'* [equal treatment] based on fair play and fair pay," Torres said.

The lawyer said the motto *"Setbienten Pupbliku"*(public servant) does not mean ignoring complaints of officers who enforce the law.

"Doing so would be injustice—and doing justice, as difficult as it may be, is what the DPS officers seek for themselves and for their brothers and sisters in DPS," Torres said.

In his court action, Sgt. Deleon Guerrero asked the court to end DPS' alleged discriminatory practices by compelling the department to comply with the Personnel Service Rules and Regulations and competitive selection process.

Sgt. Deleon Guerrero is currently the officer in charge of the DPS Communication and Technology Section.

Twenty-six other police officers wanted to join in Deleon Guerrero's court action. Deleon Guerrero asked the court to let the 26 officers join the case.

DPS, through assistant attorney general Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, filed a motion to deny the joinders of the 26 additional officers. Hassel-Shearer argued that the 26 officers failed to exhaust their administrative remedies.

In opposition to the DPS motion, Torres, on behalf of Deleon Guerrero, argued that such action would be futile.

In denying DPS motion, Wiseman said that, while he is aware of DPS' argument that all agency remedies must first be exhausted, there are circumstances when the facts of the case do not require such exhaustion.

He pointed out that Deleon Guerrero had indisputably exhausted all of his administrative remedies.

The judge said the result of Deleon Guerrero's exhaustion of remedies show no record of facts to compile for review, no transcripts of hearings, and not a single administrative decision or finding.

"Thus, the need for a proper record and the need to allow the agency to correct its own errors cannot justify applying the doctrine," he said.

Wiseman said although DPS represented to the court that the Civil Service Commission will soon have enough members to constitute a quorum and be able to hear and decide administrative appeals, there is no guarantee that this will actually happen.

"Indeed, at this point, it could be appropriately considered a matter of speculation," the judge added.

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Military buildup worries Guam environmental groups

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Worried about the impact of the impending military buildup on the island, environmental groups in Guam such as the University of Guam Green Steering Committee are saying there should be a partnership with the local community on this issue.

Dr. John Peterson, director of the Micronesia Area Research Center at UOG and green steering committee chair, said planning should not only be about taking care of the troops but also about putting up sustainable environmental infrastructures.

"This [sustainable environmental infrastructures] should be inclusive in the process of the military buildup because we at UOG are trying to promote a healthy environment," he said.

Peterson is attending the 26th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference as an observer and he lauded the organizers for getting together all the stakeholders to interact and discuss solutions about environmental issues in the region and the impacts of global warming.

"It's should not be a your-side-of-the-fence and my-side-of-the-fence mentality but there must be a coordination process with the local community," he said.

Peterson is optimistic, however, with the newly confirmed Undersecretary of Defense for the Asia Pacific Region, Gen. Chip Gregson, whom he said has a vision for an islandwide process.

He said the U.S. Navy, the government of Guam and environmental groups in Guam must create some kind of arrangement to discuss these environmental impact issues.

"We at UOG are working on the educational part. We want a change in the behavior of the student body. Our faculty and the school of business are drawing up green business plans," he said.

He said these are the things they want the community to engage in as they prepare for the military buildup.

The issue of the military buildup and its impact on the environment will be one of the highlights of today's second day of discussion. Don Schregardus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, is scheduled to speak on the issue at 8:30am.

A participant from the U.S. Marine Corps in Hawaii, who preferred not to be identified, said there are already environmental plans and programs within the military services.

He said he is interested in presentations about environmental regulations and the kind of services the military can operate.

When asked for his initial assessment of the conference, he said this is a very useful tool to allow people from different organizations and islands to share their perspectives on environmental issues affecting their communities.

Expert: Energy production should be decentralized

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rather than having just one entity controlling power generation, it makes better sense to decentralize the system in local communities, according to an energy codes specialist.

Howard C. Wiig, an energy expert from the Hawaii State Energy Office, said the trend toward miniaturization in technology would enable small communities to control the generation of power for their own consumption.

"Technology is becoming so small and we need to really put up local energy power in each village where the local people can have control over it," he said.

Wiig was commenting on a suggestion that, instead of using modern technologies, simpler lifestyles should be given more emphasis in how environmental institutions and policies address the impacts of climate change.

"There should be a marriage of the two [simpler lifestyles and modern technology]," Wiig said.

The issue came up as panelists were about to wrap up discussions on the impact of global warming on their respective areas, particularly in low-lying jurisdictions like the Federated States of Micronesia.

Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e, the director of the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency, had wondered aloud why there is not much talk about identifying simple lifestyle solutions to environmental impacts.

"I'd like to go back to basic island lifestyles instead of worrying about those technologies because these are meant to promote products," Vaiaga'e told participants in the ongoing 26th Pacific Island Environment Conference at the Saipan World Resort.

Joe Konno of the National Office of Environment and Emergency Management in the Federated States of Micronesia, pointed out, however, that the carbon footprint of Pacific islands is just 1.1 percent, compared to other areas in the world.

Wiig said modern technology is still important in some ways but at the same time there is a decentralization process that goes along the way.

"It's a molding of the old way to new ways. I think that technology is quite improving, that it goes down to the lowest level," he said.

For instance, he said, LED lamps (light emitting diodes) should be used instead of incandescent bulbs, especially in the region, because it is 10 times more efficient.

"It's very effective in this tropical climate and it save a lot of money for people," he said.

He said LED lighting can last up to 30,000 hours while incandescent bulbs can last only up to 750 hours.

NEWS BRIEFS

LOI deadline for Democratic Party

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands would like to announce to interested candidates that the deadline for submitting letters of intent to run as a Democrat is July 10. Letters can be emailed to nmidemocrats@gmail.com. Questions should be directed to Credentials chair Pete Arriola at 287-7769. Individuals who want to register as an NMI Democrat are encouraged to do so. The Democratic Party welcomes all who want "New Beginning, New Leaders, New Direction." ***(PR)***

Manta Ray cadets to march on 4th of July

Attention to all Manta Ray Battalion cadets: We are asking for your support to join in the 4th of July March on July 4, 2009, from 12pm to 4pm. Cadets will meet at the China House Restaurant and march to Kristo Rai Church. Attire is Class B uniform. If you need consent forms they can be picked up at the JROTC building or at the site. Consent forms must have the parent's signature. There will be a meeting next Friday, July 3, 2009, at 9am to 12pm regarding the issuing of uniform and further details of the parade. ***(PR)***

Small business awarded navy housing contract

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded a $133.9 million firm-fixed price and indefinite-delivery, indefinite- quantity contract June 23 to Chugach World Services, Inc. to perform housing operations, maintenance services, and change of occupancy maintenance services for Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas. The contract base period begins August 2009 with four option periods.

The work includes the management and housing operations necessary to maintain and repair family housing units, bachelor housing units, Navy Gateway Inns and Suites. It will also involve all services, maintenance and change of occupancy maintenance in both vacant and occupied family housing units, bachelor housing units, and NGIS units.

This contract was competitively procured utilizing the Small Business Administration's 8(a) program and eight proposals were received. ***(USN)***

Family to decide today on arrival date of Winkfield's body

The family of the late Air Force officer Audra Winkfield, who died in a fatal car accident in Colorado Springs (not Hawaii as reported by the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday) where she was stationed, will decide today on the date of her body's arrival on Saipan.

Her father, Bobby Winkfield, said yesterday they have finalized all the documents required for the transfer of Audra Winkfield's remains from the U.S. mainland to the CNMI.

Winkfield's youngest son, Jeremy, is now in Colorado Springs making the arrangements.

Audra Winkfield joined the U.S. Air Force three years ago in 2007 and she had a rank of senior airmen until her death last Sunday.

Her car was hit by a truck and she died on the spot. She was 26.

The *Saipan Tribune* also mistakenly wrote Audra's family name as Winkfield-Jones in an earlier report. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

MINA commits $2K donation to eco-camp plan

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance has just committed a $2,000 donation for the upcoming Eco-Camp Project on Tinian on July 5-12.

MINA chairperson Fran Castro will turn over the donation this Friday to camp coordinator Kimberly Vaillencourt and scuba diving instructor Mike Tripp at the MINA office near the Naked Fish Bar on Beach Road.

MINA staff Pam Sablan said the Eco-Camp Project is a hands-on experience about marine biology for the youth.

Some 50 kids from Saipan and Tinian have registered for the weeklong activity.

Sablan said some kids would be present to witness the handover of the MINA donation at 9am.

MINA is a community-based, nonprofit organization, formed by a group of people dedicated to the conservation of the natural resources of the CNMI.

It is envisioned to take care of the unique and beautiful natural resources of the CNMI "but this natural heritage is at risk of continued degradation."

MINA is one of the coordinating organizations at the ongoing 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference being held at the Saipan World Resort. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

A VOTE IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

In this life, we take too many things for granted. Take for instance the right to vote. Throughout history, torture and even death have been used to prevent people from casting their ballots in an election.

These instances, no matter how many, have failed to silence the voices of humanity desiring to participate in the running of their communities and governments. There are people still living in our islands who can recall a time when the election of government leaders was only an abstract concept in their minds and a yearning in their hearts. Imagine what these elders would say if they knew you were going to throw your vote away.

On June 27, 2009 please vote for
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MELL SENTOSA	022E	6/20 Sat	6/18 Thu	6/18 Thu	6/16 Tue	6/13 Sat	6/26 Fri	6/22 Mon	6/21 Sun	6/14 Sun	6/14 Sun	6/22 Mon	6/26 Fri	6/28 Sun	6/30 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	015E	6/27 Sat	6/25 Thu	6/25 Thu	6/23 Tue	6/20 Sat	7/3 Fri	6/29 Mon	6/28 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/29 Mon	7/3 Fri	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue
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MELL SENOKO	023E	6/27 Sat	6/28 Sun	6/28 Sun	6/30 Tue	7/2 Thu	7/4 Sat	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue	7/10 Fri	7/11 Sat	7/16 Thu	8/4 Tue	7/19 Sun	7/15 Wed
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MELL SENTOSA	023E	7/25 Sat	7/26 Sun	7/26 Sun	7/28 Tue	7/30 Thu	8/1 Sat	8/2 Sun	8/4 Tue	8/7 Fri	8/8 Sat	8/13 Thu	9/1 Tue	8/16 Sun	8/12 Wed
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Bill requiring alien workers to shoulder health costs gets support

By ANITA B. HOFSCHNEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Jerry Crisostimo's employee chose to climb a tree to pick fruit during his lunch break, Crisostimo was unaware that the decision would cost him upwards of $9,000.

"He fell down and cracked his ribs," said Crisostimo.

If the employee had been a resident or U.S. citizen, the repercussions of his action would have fallen squarely on his shoulders. But because the situation concerned a nonresident worker, Crisostimo was required to literally pay for the worker's actions.

This was just one of the testimonies presented yesterday morning at a public hearing on House Bill 16-262, which seeks to require nonresident workers to pay for a portion of both their health insurance and their medical expenses.

"I'm not asking for more than what is fair," said Rep. Ralph DLG Torres, who introduced the bill with Rep. Stanley T. Torres and Rep. Victor B. Hocog.

Employers are currently required to pay for the medical costs and insurance of nonresident employees, but there is no similar statute regarding resident workers.

"They are being discriminated against," said Torres, referring to residents.

H.B. 262 does not currently specify what percentage of their medical bills and insurance foreign nationals would be required to pay. Torres said part of the purpose of conducting the hearings is to determine what percentage would be appropriate.

He also said that he believes medical expenses for injuries sustained on the job should be covered by the employer.

"We are trying to minimize employers' contribution and increase employees' responsibility," said Torres. In particular, Torres said he was driven to introduce the bill by complaints he has heard from employers who are required to pay hospital fees every time a nonresident employee chooses to become pregnant.

"I strongly believe that individuals should be responsible for [personal] family enhancement," said Torres.

Jay Santos, director of Human Resources at Triple J, stepped forward to support this view. Triple J pays over $60,000 a year in premiums for nonresident employees' health insurance, said Santos.

"We would like to have the opportunity to control our expenses," said Santos.

None of the 15 present at the public hearing spoke against the bill.

Torres said he has not received any negative written testimony regarding H.B. 262; he also said he has not received any testimony on it from nonresident workers.

The original version of the bill stated that foreign nationals would be required to cover medical expenses only in the event of pregnancy.

Opponents of the original version included Rep. Tina Sablan, who said yesterday that she considered singling out pregnancy as the only required expense to be a form of gender discrimination. Sablan added that she could not comment on the new version of the bill because it had not yet been distributed to lawmakers.

Another public hearing on the bill was held at the Multi-Purpose Center at 6pm. Two more public hearings will be held on Tinian and Rota this week. In addition to H.B. 16-262, H.B. 16-72, "To create a visitation right for grandparents," and H.B. 16-173, Medical Consent Act of 2008, are also topics at the hearings.

7 Saipan beaches are red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on seven Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are the Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico Dump, American Memorial Park, Hafa Adai Drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 38 locations on Saipan's coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

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Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 24, 1999

45 years for JJ Camacho
Jesse James Camacho, tagged as the mastermind in the killing of 13-year-old Antonio Sablan, Jr. last year, was sent to 45 years in prison yesterday. "This kind of conduct is not acceptable in a civilized society," Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas said in issuing the sentence. Bellas noted that the Camacho may not have a similar crime record in the past but the "aggravating circumstance is that this is the most serious crime committed in the history of the Commonwealth . Camacho, accompanied by a Marshal agent, displayed no remorse nor any emotion when he emerged from the courtroom wearing sunglasses.

Northwest braces for more tourists
In anticipation of the influx of visitors this summer, Northwest Airlines would be replacing its current DC 10 aircraft to a B747 to accommodate additional number of passengers coming to Saipan. However, in exchange for the increased seat capacity, Northwest Airlines wants the Commonwealth Ports Authority to extend its incentive program until October 2000. According to Martin Gross, general manager for Northwest Philippines & Micronesia, the proposal will make it economically feasible for the airline to carry out its plan to use a bigger aircraft.

June 24, 2002

MVA reports growth in May arrivals
For the first time after the September 11 terrorist attacks, visitor arrivals in the CNMI in May reflected a positive growth compared to the same period last year, even if tourist arrival figures from its number one market-Japan-plunged by as much as 14 percent. A report released by the Marianas Visitors Authority showed a total arrival figure of 38,618 for the month, reflecting a 0.58-percent increase from last year's 38,394. The May figures deviate from the all-negative percentage figures showing the change in the monthly arrivals for the fiscal year compared to those of FY 2001.

Straub threatens to turn down NMI patients—again
Alarmed over plans to review past unpaid claims, Hawaii-based Straub Medical Center is once more threatening to stop accepting patients from the CNMI if these unpaid claims are not paid in full anytime soon. The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is shrugging off this threat, however, saying they will only pay these unpaid claims once its third-party administrator, Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral, finishes reviewing the claims for accuracy. According to Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes, Hawaii health service providers such as Straub are insisting that they be paid at once for services rendered prior to the Fund's signing of the contract with the HPMR as third-party administrator for Group Health and Life Insurance Program.

June 24, 2003

Power disconnection plan backed
Some legislators are not opposed to cutting off utility services to some government offices if it means keeping the delivery of utility services flowing to the vast majority of paying consumers who need power and water. Senate Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication chairman Diego M. Songao said the government's failure to pay its utility bills has been a recurring negligence and may be a detriment to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s ability to continue providing power and water services to both public and private agencies. "Everybody has to live with their obligations. If a customer out there-a residence or business-fails to pay their bills, they get disconnected. CUC is strict on those non-payments," Songao acknowledged yesterday.

NMC gets $3.5M for Pacific Gateway
The Northern Marianas College has received $3.5 million in grant money for its Pacific Gateway project. NMC Board of Regents chairman Vince Seman said yesterday the money came from the Governor's Office, which signed a corresponding memorandum of agreement with the NMC last Thursday. "The governor put his words into action. He fulfilled his promise of giving us his full support. We're informed last week about it and we're, of course, more than happy to receive it," said Seman. The MOU, according to Seman, provides a 60-day deadline for the NMC to spend the whole amount for the acquisition of a facility, which is part of the implementation of Pacific Gateway, a major undertaking by the college to lure international students in order to boost its revenues.

Man who marries off daughter for a fee gets probation

By FERDIE DELA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a suspended sentence on a man who had conspired with an alien worker to engage in a fake marriage with his daughter for a fee.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Sotero Litulumar Teregeyo to three years in prison, all suspended.

Following a plea agreement, Manglona placed Teregeyo on three years of supervised probation and ordered him to pay a $2,000 fine, and $100 court assessment fee.

Teregeyo, 44, was also required to perform 70 hours of community service.

Manglona ordered the defendant to return to court for a review hearing or to determine whether he has complied with all the conditions and terms of his suspended sentence.

"Failure to comply with the conditions shall constitute a violation of the terms of the suspended sentence and shall subject the defendant to revocation proceedings," the judge said in a written order.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Teregeyo and Mizanaur Rahman in August 2008 with conspiracy to commit immigration fraud and immigration fraud.

Teregeyo and counsel, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke, signed a plea agreement with the CNMI government, represented by assistant attorney general Kathleen Busenkell.

Teregeyo pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit immigration fraud. The other charge was dismissed as part of the agreement.

According to court documents, on or between February 2005 to May 18, 2005, Teregeyo and Rahman, a Bangladeshi, agreed to enter into a fake marriage for a fee.

Teregeyo agreed to let Rahman marry his daughter for the purpose of procuring Rahman's entry as an immigrant or for obtaining his naturalization or permanent residence in the CNMI or in the U.S.

The marriage occurred on May 18, 2005. Teregeyo received money from Rahman for arranging the marriage.

NMC holds free 'Cash for College' workshop tomorrow

The Northern Marianas College and the College Access Challenge Project will be hosting a free "Cash for College" workshop that is aimed at assisting students and their parents in maximizing scholarship opportunities that are available to students seeking to obtain a college education.

The free workshop is on Thursday, June 25, at the Multi-Purpose Center. The first session will begin at 9am to 11am and the next session will be at 5:30pm to 8pm. Participants can attend either session.

Participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid, and the CNMI Scholarship.

The workshop will also give participants the opportunity to receive application fee and placement test fee waivers for the Fall 2009 semester—a savings of up to $75. Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process.

CONTACT INFO

Office of Admissions and Records
- Tel: 234-5498 ext. 1528/37
- E-mail: oar@nmcnet.edu,
- Website: www.nmcnet.edu

Workshop participants are asked to bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), tax forms, and proof of CNMI residency for 2007 and 2008, including proof of continuing residency. Applicants for SHEFA are required to bring a valid U.S. passport, a voter registration card, and proof of vote cast.

Participants are also asked to pre-register by emailing their name, email, and phone number to oar@nmcnet.edu. Or call 234-5498 ext 1528/37 to provide this information. Preregistration is not required. However, because of space limitations, those who preregister will be assisted first.

For additional information, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1528/37, or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or visit the official NMC website at www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

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INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO. 2009-CDA-02-ITB

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/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR FRIDAY, 26, JUNE 2009.

DATE: Friday, 26 June 2009

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building
Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office
Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
- Funding Status

VII. New Business
- Staffing Needs

VIII. Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao
Chairman

June 23, 2009

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Too big to mail?

The post office may be the next too-big thing. If it continues on its present course, the U.S. Postal Service stands to post $6 billion to $12 billion in losses by the end of the fiscal year. By the end of the second quarter of fiscal 2009, it had racked up an operating loss of more than $2 billion, almost equal to its total losses last year. So far, the Postal Service has depended on loans from the Federal Financing Bank, a federal borrowing agency, to help make up the difference, but it is fast approaching its $15 billion credit limit. Something has to give.

The Postal Service has asked Congress to omit a rider on an annual appropriations bill that mandates six-day service, opening the possibility of five-day delivery as a cost-cutting measure. It has also requested a temporary relaxation of its obligation to its pension program, enabling it to put nearly $2 billion toward breaking even.

Both these short-term fixes fail to address the challenges facing the Postal Service. Before computers, people depended on the mail to maintain relationships and conduct business. No longer. Overall mail volume has been in a nosedive for seven years. It plummeted 14.9 percent in the last quarter alone, outpacing the service's grimmest forecasts. Postal officials blame the economy. But the recession has only accelerated a transition to newer forms of communication that was already under way. For instance, one of the biggest declines in first-class mail last quarter was from people filing their taxes online.

The Postal Service has made valiant efforts to improve customer service and build its market share in shipping. But all its recovery plans revolve around increasing the volume of traditional mail. Suggestions for how to "Use the Full Potential of the Internet" in its Vision 2013 plan were limited to steps such as revamping its Web site and encouraging business sites to offer to mail information to customers. The service must adjust to changing times—and fast.

Europe's increasingly privatized mail services offer exciting examples of postal possibilities in the 21st century. They are leaner and greener than the U.S. service because they work with, not against, the Internet. Switzerland's Swiss Post, for example, employs green technology, providing customers with secure, address-linked online mailboxes where they can view scanned images of their mail and decide whether to virtually "open" it, discard it or have it physically mailed to them. This system has greatly increased efficiency, promoted recycling and decreased junk mail.

Such are the steps the U.S. Postal Service might take if it were a real company and not a hybrid hamstrung by a large and heavily unionized workforce, congressional management, and an antiquated business model. Instead of its short-term cost-cutting measures, it needs to reduce its giant fixed costs to continue its appointed rounds. The Postal Service must reinvent itself for the 21st century, starting with a plan that doesn't rely on the resurgence of traditional mail. To do this will require innovative leadership, freedom from congressional micromanagement and an understanding of the possibilities of new technology that goes beyond building a better Web site.

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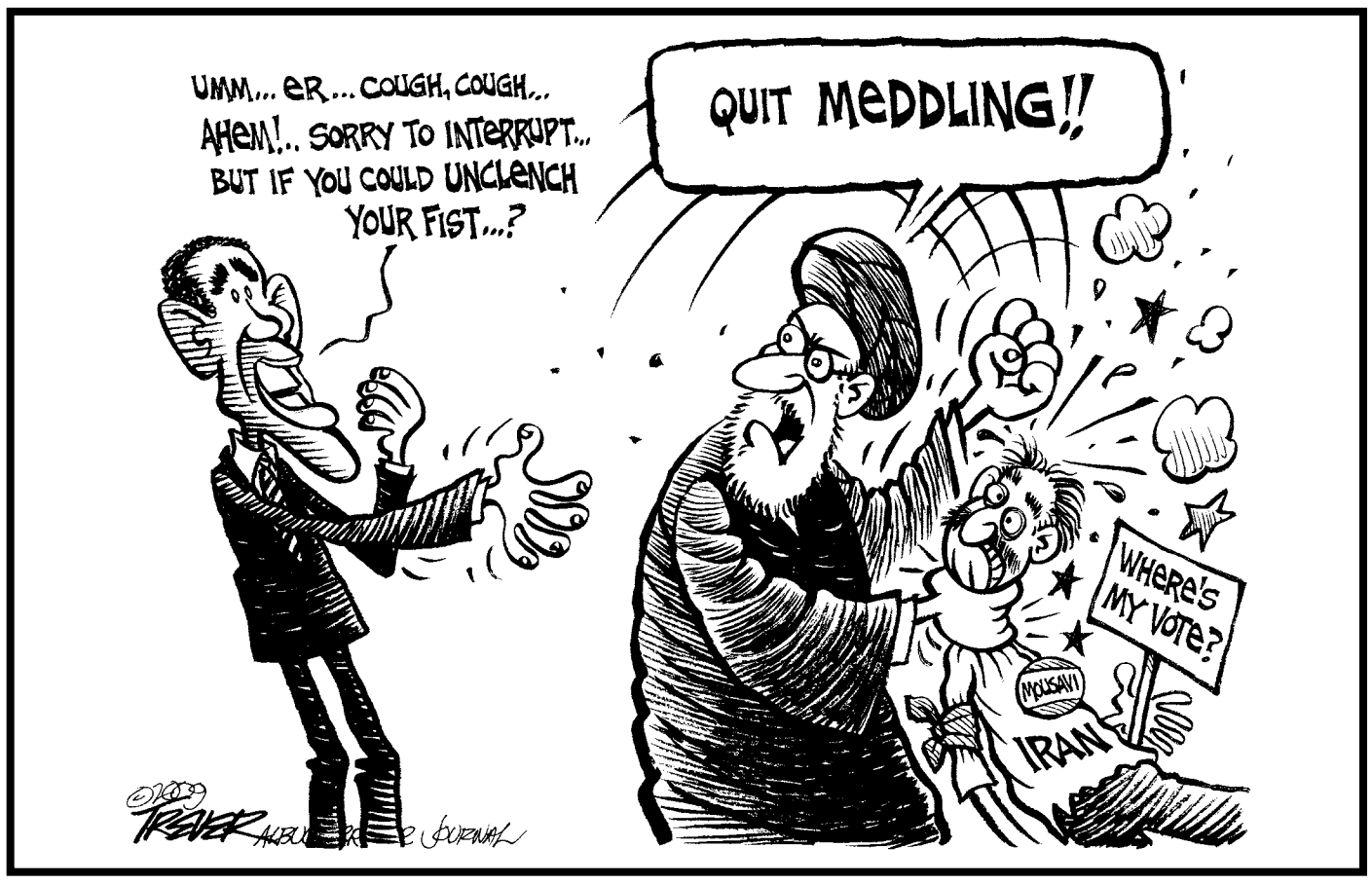

A few thoughts on the US economy and 'outsourcing' production

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

There appears to be increasing concern among some observers, myself included, that the U.S. economy will be a long time in recovering to the level known before the start of the great decline only recently experienced. By "level" I mean in terms of measured economic growth relative to the nation's "adjusted" average annual GDP's. Certainly there will be growth but I dare say not at the level previously witnessed.

What has occurred over just a few short months since last summer is a near complete destruction of confidence in the financial sector of our country. All a result of either greed or incompetence—or both.

But it's not just the financial sector that is of concern. The U.S. lost its comparative advantage in many manufacturing sectors long before the housing and financial meltdown. Incredibly, only now are some members of the U.S. Congress beginning to realize the extent of this disaster as American unemployment levels continue to rise—but have not yet reached Depression-era levels of 24.9 percent (1933)—much, but not all, due in part to outsourcing. You can see and hear about outsourcing on CNN daily. It's nothing new.

I recall that during the years of the Cold War, United States foreign policy under Kennedy's administration involved a program to encourage private American investment in the economies of newly emerging and developing independent nations. To support this policy both financial and trade incentives were often provided those U.S. firms investing abroad. In those days the purpose was to offer many of the newly independent nations of the '50s and '60s—mostly former colonies of Britain, France, the Netherlands and a few other European states—an alternative to Soviet supported socialism and communism by encouraging the concept of private enterprise and capitalism. I know this to be true as I was involved in the effort as a foreign service officer with the U.S. State Department.

Now things are different. Over the last 25 years and without any inducement on the part of the U.S. government many American firms have opted to transfer their production outside the United States in favor of any number of low-wage foreign countries. Of course, the principal reason is to enhance profits by moving from high-wage U.S. mainland locations to low-wage foreign venues.

The moves have resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of American jobs. Everyone knows this, but what is generally not appreciated is that many U.S. companies also wanted to get out from under what they perceived as expensive local and federal compliance regulations such as environmental, occupational health and safety, zoning and many other laws including U.S tax policies that resulted in increasing the cost of doing business and eventually loss of competitiveness.

In order to remain in business and improve their bottom line they moved overseas to areas of low wages and fewer restrictive regulations. One might also suspect some saw the move abroad as a way to escape some of their social responsibilities such as equal opportunity laws, among others.

Also contributing to the decision to move production abroad was the pressure of ever increasing wage and benefit demands of American labor unions. These also played a role in the flight of many of the nation's manufacturing and service jobs abroad. To witness the result of this transfer of manufacturing capacity, all anyone has to do is to visit any WalMart store and check the labels on the products offered for sale by the largest retailer in America, if not the world. I venture to say that 90 percent of all non-food products being sold from their shelves were once manufactured in the United States but fewer and fewer in recent years bear the "Made in the U.S.A." label. Indeed, even many food products are now sourced from China. Certainly the availability of such foreign manufactured low-cost goods within their stores has certainly contributed to raising the living standard of many, but not without the social cost of jobs lost elsewhere in the U.S. economy.

WalMart's phenomenal growth in the United States, which has largely occurred since 1990, has caused me to wonder if the Chinese government provided the financing for the expansion as a vehicle to market Chinese manufactured products. If indeed this is what occurred, it has to be one of the most sophisticated and brilliant marketing strategies the U.S. has ever seen.

The playing field for many U.S. domestic manufacturers of certain products is no longer level—and it will never be unless a tariff is placed on many foreign imports to bring the cost to the U.S. consumer more in line with that of similar U.S. domestically produced products. Let me be clear: I don't advocate this "broad brushed" and applied in every case as it would only result in a trade war where the foreign nation would retaliate by placing a tariff on U.S. products exported to that country. However, if the manufactured item is critical to national defense, that's another matter and the domestic manufacturer should be protected.

Where this will lead? I don't know. I like many of the less expensive foreign imports. They have contributed to raising my living standard at a lower cost than otherwise would be the case. But I do have sympathy for all the American workers who once manufactured their "widgets" for sale around the world but lost their competitive advantage and ultimately their jobs to foreign competition.

What the future will hold is anybody's guess but the past does sometimes have a way of being repeated. Those of my generation will recall the Great Depression—even with a fading memory—and will remember the economic stimulus later provided by World War II which brought those dismal years to an end when the bombs fell

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The art of public speaking

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

If you're doing this whole "passionpreneur" thing correctly, doing what you love and making money at it, then at some time in your journey, you'll probably be asked to give a public talk, or sit for a radio or television interview.

You see, when you're good at what you do, people will seek you out to pick your brain for your expertise, or ask you to share your story of your experience.

I often receive e-mails from new authors, business owners, artists and even those on the other end of the microphone—the consultants, television and radio hosts—who seek my advice as to how to get over the nervousness, and successfully master the art of public speaking and interviewing.

Here, then, are a few general tips to help in-person public speakers, as well as live on-air interviewers and interviewees alike.

It was inspired by a recent e-mailer who said:

"...I feel no matter how much I prepare for these dang things, they always seem to take on a life of their own. In other words, they never go as planned. A lot of times, I (as the interviewer) get the nervous, not so enthusiastic, first time radio interviewees and then I end up screwing up somewhere along the way....I'd really like to get better at this."

—Radio Guy

Dear Radio Guy,

I used to have the same challenge. Here's what I learned:

First, be clear on your purpose

The first, and most important thing to be clear about is your reason for doing the interview or making the speech. If you are an author, entrepreneur, or artist, your goal is to share your expertise or experience—to enlighten or entertain—position yourself as an expert, and sell your product or service if you can.

If you are the radio/TV host, your goal is to help your guest get their information out in a way that makes them look good, positions them as an expert and encourages listeners and viewers to buy whatever they are selling, or take whatever specific action is desired.

In order for your appearance to proceed in a logical, sensible and satisfying way, everyone should be clear on their purpose.

It's a conversation, silly!

The next thing to understand is this is not a performance. It's a conversation, and a good conversation rarely ever—and should NEVER—go according to a plan! It should flow back and forth naturally between the interviewer and the interviewee; between speaker and audience.

Therefore, the only thing you need to get comfortable with is your ability to listen to the other person, guide them smoothly to the points each of you wants to make, and engage the rest of your audience at the same time.

In my opinion, a script is an insult to your intelligence, a block to your intuition, and kills the spontaneity and the authenticity of the moment you're in. You're a smart enough person to think on your feet. It's pretty easy once you are clear about your purpose.

The most important thing I've learned

What I'm about to share is the most important thing I've learned over the years of giving talks and interviews. The most important determining factor for the success of your speaking event or interview is something that you can never know ahead of time, and that is the "energy" in the room at the time you make your appearance. In other words, the needs, moods, attitudes, experiences as well as the combination of specific individuals in the room at the moment you step to the podium or get on the microphone will determine what they want to hear, what they ask you, and how best to answer their needs. That is something you can not prepare for.

For example, if you prepare for a talk geared toward college seniors, and then discover that everyone in the room is actually a college freshman, then you will not be serving them appropriately by giving them a rehearsed speech written for seniors. You must adapt to meet the needs of your audience in the moment.

Whenever I give a talk, I always start with interactive questions so that I can get a feel for who is in the room, and why they came. I'm there, not simply to give a talk, but to serve the needs of the moment.

Admittedly, this is a little trickier if I'm sitting for a radio interview with no one calling in by phone. In that case, however, I have to become the listener, speak on their behalf even as I speak to them, and use the relationship they have with the host of the show as a bridge into their collective mind. (yeah, I know that's a bit cryptic and new-agey,but....)

What if i don't know the answer?

This is perhaps the crux of people's fear of giving public talks or sitting for interviews without adequate preparation. They don't want to be embarrassed, be blindsided by a question, appear not fully knowledgeable, prepared, or informed. Quite simply, they don't want to look like an idiot.

Sure, it's good to do research. It's advisable to know your material. But, as we've already determined, even with all the preparation in the world, the needs of the room at a given moment can result in questions you haven't anticipated. You shouldn't attempt to control the experience by restricting questions. If you really want to help people, you must allow them to present their needs and ask the questions that are on *their* minds. So, what do you do if someone blindsides you with a question.

You simply say, "I don't know." That's it!

Actually, in my own talks, what I say is, *"That's a great question. No one's ever asked me that question before. Honestly, I don't know the answer to that, but if you (see me after my talk; give me your email ad-*

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ConGen Wilfredo DL Maximo

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The unfinished documentary, *Under the American Sun,* emerged out of a Guam Humanities Council and National Endowment for Humanities project for a photo exhibit, discussion series and a short 10-minute film commemorating the 60th year anniversary of the Filipino workers recruited after World War II beginning 1946 to assist in the reconstruction of Guam from the devastation of war.

For two decades, over 10,000 Filipino men and women migrated to Guam and settled at Camp Roxas in Agat, resulting in several generations of Filipino who integrated into American citizenry, enriching further the genetics and culture of the Guam community.

One of those construction workers was 32-year old Felix Pangindian Maximo Jr., of Quezon province, father of departing Consul General Wilfredo Maximo of the Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines on Saipan.

If for just that fact of a family relation who labored in one of the islands along the Marianas Trench, for a firm whose business extended across the U.S. territories in the Pacific after WWII, CG Maximo could have easily found a reason to drumbeat a high profile PR affinity to the islands, its people and its history, to enhance and glamorize his tour of duty.

Instead, the ConGen adopted a Confucian penchant for mediation and moderation, which I had since labeled as "stealth diplomacy," well below the normal radar screen of adumbrated presence practiced in the commercial sector constantly fed by well-crafted press releases and calculated photo opportunities.

CG Maximo followed Julia Heidemann whose style I once characterized as "where diplomacy wears a smile." Fe Calixterio, erstwhile of the NMC continuing adult education program, and now an earnest Consulate volunteer, narrates how Filipinos fared in the CNMI in the last three decades, and prior to Julia, were seen to be an abused lot. Julia networked with the shakers and movers in business and government in a manner that saw Filipinos accepted not only as integral part of the economic process, but as contributing members of an emerging diverse community.

CG Maximo's quiet and understated six years' tour of service made sure that the Consulate was in a position to assist its 20,000-some constituency individually to pursue their goals in coming to the CNMI, and ensure the integrity of their paperwork so as to conform to labor and immigration requirements of both the host country and those of their national patrimony.

Maximo

The function of diplomatic offices is often misunderstood. In my vast travels, I had come to understand that the might of the U.S. State Department is in the art of persuasion rather than coercion. Birthed by the French "mission to civilize," a mission post's creativity is in addressing people's hearts and minds.

At the Consular office's bulletin board where memos and circulars are posted, are also quotes that reflect the understanding of the office, and being the primary contact to the Consulate's constituency, mirrors the mission post's philosophy.

Consider Mark Twain's admonition: *Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by things that you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.* That is an invitation to reach for the stars.

Then words of realism from an Alan Cohen: *It takes a lot of courage to release the familiar and seemingly secure, to embrace the new. But there is no real security in the adventurous and exciting, for in movement there is life, and in change there is power."*

Putting the onus on personal and total responsibility on individuals comes wisdom from Swami Sivananda: *Put your heart, mind, intellect and soul even to your smallest acts. That is the secret of success.*

It was in one of the instructional courses offered by the Consulate to members of its constituency where I was a volunteer that I picked up the tenor of ConGen Maximo's "run silent, run deep" style. I was highlighting the need for the participants to understand that their input to the instructional process is equal to their output. The virtues of self-motivation and self-confidence, self-reliance and self-sufficiency, were better aids to the learning process than any gimmick or slick technique that the teacher could pull off like a magic trick.

Briefly and reflectively, the ConGen added to my utterances: *When one goes out in winter to gather the firewood, one gets heated twice.* The lesson that took me two paragraphs to elaborate, the ConGen accomplished with a single brush stroke!

Anyone who has the "temerity" to engage Greg Cruz, Jr. in a literary tiff is foolhardy. One who does so and follows it up with the breaking of bread at the revolving 360 knows strategy. Sun Tsu's book of strategy, *The Art of War,* counsel mediation and meditation, harmony and balance.

Among the ConGen's diplomatic postings were Spain and India. He would not be unfamiliar with the "romantic" impulses of Cervantes and his Man of La Mancha. Nor would he be foreign to the wisdom of the East in the comprehensive "legalism" of the Gita, the sutras of Siddharta, and the analects of Confucius. In his personal devotion, he is versed in the traditions of the Levant, rooted in the Jewish *Tanakh,* the Roman *Novum Testamentum Graece,* and Islam's *Koran*.

A romantic legalist, no flashy erudition on display, but the submerged Aristotelian intellect of our Lyceum of the Philippines grad-

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

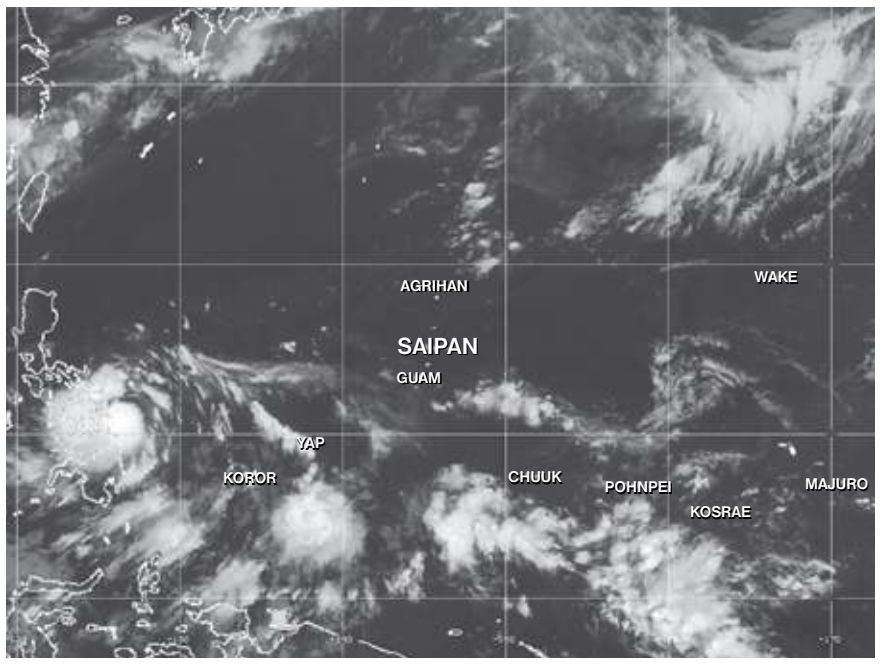
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲55	▼44
Beijing	Sunny	▲104	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲91	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲79	▼62
Manila	Rain	▲83	▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼47
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲80	▼68
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼67
Paris	Cloudy	▲75	▼60
Pusan	Sunny	▲86	▼66
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼59
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼56
San Francisco	Sunny	▲75	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲82	▼64
Tokyo	Showers	▲77	▼72
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼69

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs southeastward from tropical depression 04W centered at 11N128E to end at 3N147E. Another trough extends northeastward from 8N147E to 12N152E. Cloudiness, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Koror between 3N and 10N from 130E to 135E and within an area bounded by a line from 11N148E to EQ135E to EQ149E back to 11N148E. Strong low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae within an area bounded by a line from 5N159E to EQ150E to EQ166E to 4N166E back to 5N159E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:39 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:23 AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:00 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:13 PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:59 AM	8:22 PM
Thursday	8:05 AM	9:14 PM
Friday	9:08 AM	8:01 PM
Saturday	10:07 AM	10:43 PM
Sunday	11:03 AM	11:23 PM

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

OPINION

Open letter to Commissioner Sablan

It's been three years since the funding was provided to PSS from the Rota Delegation. We were hoping that in the coming months the projects will start but to no avail. I am deeply saddened to see that the three school on the island of Rota is left out despite the hard work of the staff, parents and PTA officers to seek funding from our local delegation. What happened to the funding that was provided? Is it being used in other schools and Rota schools are not important?

Commissioner Sablan, we urge you to find out the status of this funding so that the projects of all the school on Rota can be jumpstarted since we are all on vacation. We hope that these projects can be completed before the school year opens. I would like to let you know that despite the lack of funding from the delegation, they have provided the CIP office with additional manpower to expedite all the projects but we don't know what's the holdup with Mr. Loan. The last time we communicated was in February 2009. We have given him ample time to complete all the necessary information, we even offered him our assistance to expedite the project but didn't take the advantage of the additional manpower. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Dexter T. Apatang
Sinapalo I/RJHS
PTA President, Rota

A FEW

From Page 10

on Pearl Harbor and the U.S. manufacturing sector once again reached full production capacity and jobs became available as a result of the war effort. By 1942 the U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 4.7 percent.

After the Second World War the United States emerged as the undisputed victor and the wealthiest nation on earth. It was unscathed at home, with an economy totally intact and a vibrant industrial base equal to that of all the nations of the world combined and probably then some. American cities were untouched by the devastation of the greatest devastating war the world had ever known.

I certainly hope that the current depression—and it is a depression to many in spite of what some politicians want to refer to as a recession—does not last as long as the one in the '30s, which required a costly war to bring to a conclusion.

THE

From Page 11

dress/phone number; visit my blog next week), I'll see what I can do for you." And then move on.

Practice that for a while and you'll see just how liberating those few words can be. Accepting that it's okay not to know something is often the one thing stopping most people from launching excitedly into satisfying, fulfilling and profitable public appearances.

How I prepare

Before I make any public appearance, I make a list of the main points I want to get across. Those include any special insights I've come to that may be relevant to the moment and any current events (recession, layoffs, elections, etc.). This list also includes administrative stuff that I might forget to mention (website, e-mail address, titles and availability of my books), as well as major points that people need in order to understand the basic premise of my talk. I keep these on the podium, or on the table next to me during an interview so that, as the appearance progresses, or comes to an end, I can be sure to incorporate them. (If I'm the interviewee, I sometimes provide the host/producer with these points so that they can make the necessary transitions and keep the interview moving forward.)

'I always say the right thing'

After years of doing public speeches, and radio appearances, I absolutely never rehearse or plan anything in a particular order. I may visualize myself in a scene making certain points to the audience, but what I do that has been the most profound and helpful is simply *repeat "I always say the right thing"* over and over and especially right before I go on stage or sit at the microphone.

That simple mantra, that affirmation is all I need to bolster the confidence that I need, and remind myself that my strength and the value I offer the world is not in a script, it rests not in rehearsals, but exists entirely in the faith I have that I will serve the needs of the people I engage at any moment, and in any circumstance which is presented to me. Try it out!

Finally

Public talks and interviews are an invaluable way to get yourself, your product and/or service into the minds of increasing numbers of people. Once you get over your initial fear of public speaking, and get comfortable with the realization that you're not expected to know *everything*, you'll find, as you do more and more of them, that most appearances follow some sort of pattern. You are often asked the same questions, often in the same order. You'll notice that you run into people who share similar concerns, interests and personalities. You'll also find that people are generally supportive and want to see you succeed, rather than hostile and judgmental as you might fear. Remember, as the person on the stage or on the air, you are automatically given a certain amount of credibility that you can use to your advantage. Yes, as you get out in the public sphere more frequently, you'll find your niche, establish your rhythm and pace and get even more confident in your ability to speak your truth, share your expertise, and bring your unique value to the world. And that, after all, is what it's all about!

Fear not! The world is with you!

■ ■ ■

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

CONGEN

From Page 11

uate may have come with the covenant of his baptism. Named Wilfredo de leon Maximo, *Wilfred* in old English means 'desiring of peace,' *de leon* is more known on Saipan with the Lion of War (*de leon Guerrero)* but similarly denotes animal ferocity, it is perhaps, not too far off the target to claim that our ConGen was fated to *ferociously desire peace!*

True to his name, our stealth diplomat methodologically pursued the path of harmony to the max! Three years before RP's DFA compulsory retirement, ConGen Maximo will most likely spend the next few years contemplating the glorious sunset of Manila Bay. We'll pay him a visit at the former ADB edifice on Roxas. *Hasta la vista, Señor!*

LOCAL

Military service is a family tradition for the Camachos

Congratulations to the Camacho graduates!

Vince Lui Duenas Camacho, son of U.S. Army Maj. Lawrence F. Camacho and Gina Duenas Camacho, graduated from Georgia Military College on June 12, 2009. That same day, he was commissioned as second lieutenant into the U.S. Army.

The elder Camacho proudly administered the oath of office to his son.

The Army's newest second lieutenant, Vince Lui D. Camacho is also a graduate of the Army's Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, as well as the Army's Air Assault School at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

The Camacho's other son, Gregory Jacob, also graduated on June 6, 2009. Gregory Camacho graduated from Hiram High School in Georgia and is now enrolled at Jacksonville State University in Alabama. He also plans to follow his family's military lineage, and has already signed up to enlist in the Alabama Army National Guard. His brother, Vince Lui Camacho, plans to administer his oath of enlistment. Gregory Camacho will participate in the Jacksonville State University's ROTC program, so he too can become an Army officer when he graduates from college.

Vince Lui and Gregory Jacob's proud grandparents are Luis B. and Ursula (deceased) F. Camacho of San Roque; and Ben C. and Annie DLG. Duenas of Chalan Kiya.

Maj. Lawrence F. Camacho also graduated from the 10-month resident course at the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas on June 4, 2009. While at CGSC, Maj. Camacho authored a 150-page thesis titled *The Leadership Development of Dwight D. Eisenhower and George S. Patton Jr.* His research work is now available for public release at the U.S. Combined Arms Research Library in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Maj. Camacho now serves as the Brigade Logistics Officer for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Georgia. His military education includes: Support Operations Officer Course, Ordnance Officer Basic Course, Combined Logistics Captain's Career Course, Combined Arms Staff Services School, and the Command and General Staff College. His civilian education includes: Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from the University of Guam, Master of Arts in Leadership and Liberal Studies from Duquesne University, and Master of Military Art and Science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2nd Lt. Vince Lui D. Camacho, center, is joined by his sister Tamara Ann, left, and his brother Gregory Jacob, second from left, together with their parents, mother Gina Ann, second from right, and father, Maj. Lawrence F. Camacho, right.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maj. Lawrence F. Camacho and his wife, Gina D. Camacho, promote their son Vince Lui to second lieutenant.

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
3,794.400
Down 116.400
(-2.98%)

HONG KONG
17,489.25
Down 570.30
(-3.16%)

JAKARTA
1,921.863
Down 53.1639
(-2.69%)

TOKYO
9,535.83
Down 290.44
(-2.96%)

K. LUMPUR
1,045.97
Down 13.53
(-1.28%)

MANILA
2,370.06
Down 41.82
(-1.73%)

SINGAPORE
2,230.73
Down 36.19
(-1.60%)

SEOUL
1,355.4
Down 44.31
(-3.17%)

BANGKOK
562.68
Down 19.61
(-3.37%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
8,339.01
-200.72

NASDAQ
1,766.19
-61.28

S&P
893.04
0.00

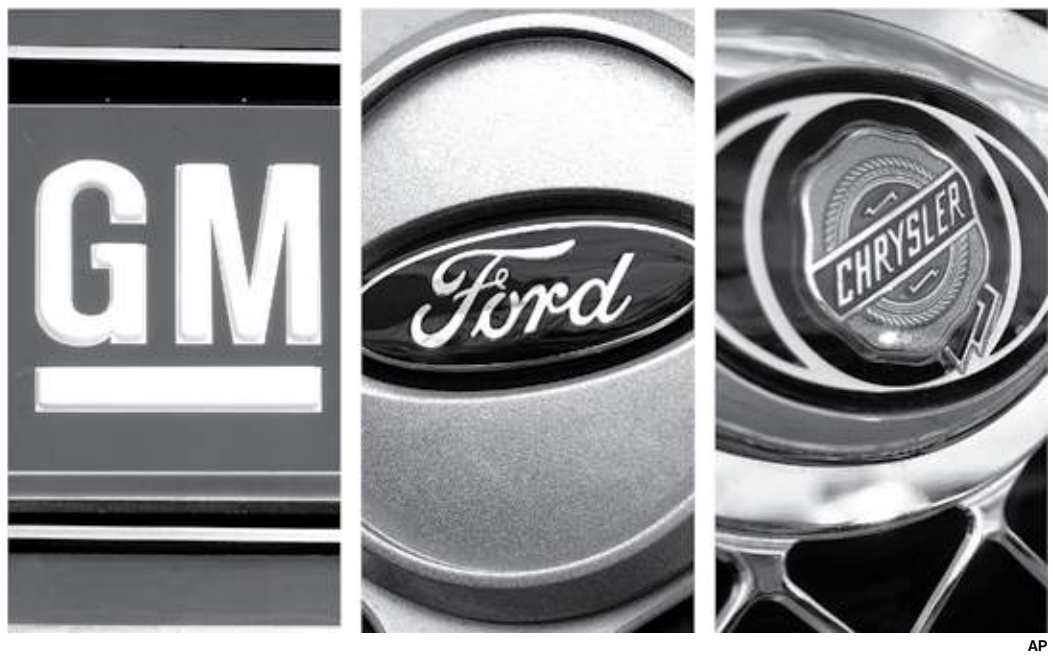
MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2817
British Pound	0.6154
Canadian Dollar	1.1568
Chinese Renminbi	6.8372
Euro	0.7230
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7508
Indian Rupee	48.9100
Indonesian Rupiah	10,590.0000
Japanese Yen	95.0520
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5523
New Zealand Dollar	1.5970
Philippine Peso	48.6200
Singapore Dollar	1.4612
South Korean Won	1,290.7000
Swiss Franc	1.0877
Taiwan Dollar	32.9540
Thailand Baht	34.2050

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

World Bank cuts 2009 global growth forecast



AP

in this combo made with file photos, logos for the Big Three automobile manufacturers, General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler, are shown.

BEIJING (AP)—The World Bank has cut its 2009 global growth forecast, saying the world economy will shrink by 2.9 percent and warning that a drop in investment in developing countries will increase poverty.

"The global recession has deepened," the Washington-based multilateral lender said in a report.

Global trade is expected to plunge by 9.7 percent this year, while total gross domestic product for high-income countries contracts by 4.2 percent, the bank said. It said economic growth in developing countries should slow to 1.2 percent—but excluding relatively strong China and India, developing economies will contract by 1.6 percent.

■ ■ ■

NEW YORK (AP)—A surprisingly bleak forecast for the world economy pushed stocks to their biggest loss in two months.

Major stock indexes tumbled by more than 2 percent Monday, sending the Dow Jones industrial average down 201 points, after the World Bank estimated the global economy will shrink 2.9 percent in 2009. It previously predicted a 1.7 percent contraction.

The grim assessment was the latest unwelcome surprise for the market since last month and further eroded hopes that the economy was starting to emerge from recession. Investors began driving stocks sharply higher in early March, encouraged by modest improvements in housing, manufacturing and even unemployment

■ ■ ■

The bank's latest forecast is a sharp reduction from its March prediction of a 1.7 percent global contraction, which it said then would be the worst on record.

Economic damage to developing countries "has been much deeper and broader than previous crises," warned the report, issued Sunday in Washington. "Unemployment is on the rise, and poverty is set to increase in developing economies," it said.

Oil sinks below $67 on World Bank forecast cut

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices sank below $67 a barrel Tuesday on expectations of weak demand after the World Bank forecast a deeper recession this year.

Benchmark crude for August delivery fell 52 cents to $66.98 a barrel by midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Monday, it dropped $2.52 to settle at $67.50.

The July contract, which expired Monday, dropped $2.62 to settle at $66.93.

A drop from an eight-month intraday high of $73.23 earlier this month accelerated after the World Bank said it expected the global economy to shrink by 2.9 percent this year, much worse than its March prediction for a contraction of 1.7 percent.

The bank also lowered its 2010 growth forecast to 1.7 percent from 2.0 percent.

The bank's more pessimistic outlook helped puncture the growing market sentiment that massive global fiscal stimulus could spark growth by the end of the year.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 2.4 percent on Monday after a 3 percent drop last week.

"Financial markets were expecting a quicker recovery, so for the World Bank to make such a large revision down surprised people," said Ben Westmore, an energy analyst with National Australia Bank in Melbourne.

Investor expectations of growing crude demand from developing economies will likely keep prices from falling below $60 a barrel, Westmore said.

In other Nymex trading, gasoline for July delivery fell 1.47 cents to $1.85 a gallon and heating oil dropped 1.28 cents to $1.71. Natural gas for July delivery slid 4.3 cents to $3.89 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent prices fell 58 cents to $66.40 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Study: Detroit gains some ground in auto quality

NEW YORK (AP)—There's a message for Detroit's automakers in the new J.D. Power and Associates rankings: Good work. Now go back and do it again.

The marketing and consulting company's closely watched annual study of vehicle quality found Monday that Ford, General Motors and Chrysler made strides last year but still lag behind their foreign competitors.

At a time when Detroit is desperate to start turning out cars and trucks that people want to buy, the top two brands in the J.D. Power study were foreign cars: Lexus, Toyota's luxury line, and the Porsche. GM's Cadillac finished third.

The survey measures mechanical and design problems that show up in the first 90 days of ownership. The 2009 models turned out by the Detroit Three improved by an average of 10 percent, compared with an industry average of 8 percent.

Toyota, which overtook GM last year as the world's biggest automaker, dominated the J.D. Power honors. It swept awards in 10 vehicle categories, and its plant in Japan that builds the Lexus SC 430 and Toyota Corolla took the award for top plant.

For GM, only two brands performed above average: Cadillac and Chevrolet. The four brands it is purging in bankruptcy protection—Pontiac, Saturn, Hummer and Saab—were also its worst rated.

"Is it where we need to be? No," said Jamie Hresko, GM's vice president for global quality. "To have our core brands—Cadillac and Chevrolet—be on par with Toyota, we have reached a level of quality that will allow us to change perceptions."

Drug deal valid if Congress overhauls aging health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hailed by President Barack Obama, a multi-billion-dollar promise by drug companies to narrow a Medicare drug coverage gap for seniors is valid only if Congress succeeds in passing a comprehensive health care bill encountering strong opposition from Republicans, an industry spokesman said Monday.

The commitment was "made in the context of comprehensive health care reform being enacted," said Ken Johnson, senior vice president of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. "We recognize that there has to be a shared commitment if this is going to happen and this is our part of it."

The industry sealed a weekend deal with the White House and Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the Finance Committee, to spend $80 billion over the next decade defraying the cost of drugs for seniors and paying a portion of the cost of Obama's legislation. The president, in an appearance Monday at the White House, said the agreement was "a significant breakthrough on the road to health care reform, one that will make a difference in the lives of many older Americans."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

SEC charges Madoff-linked firm, adviser with fraud

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators filed securities fraud charges Monday against a prominent California investment adviser and a New York brokerage firm said to be secretly controlled by Bernard Madoff, accusing them of funneling billions of dollars from investors into Madoff's Ponzi scheme. The Securities and Exchange Commission announced civil fraud charges against New York-based Cohmad Securities Corp., its chairman, Maurice "Sonny" Cohn, his daughter, Chief Operating Officer Marcia Cohn, and vice president and broker Robert Jaffe. Named in a second SEC lawsuit was investment adviser Stanley Chais, a longtime Beverly Hills philanthropist, who allegedly oversaw three funds that invested all of their assets—nearly $1 billion—with Madoff. While channeling billions in investor funds to Madoff, the associates together collected several hundred million dollars in fees from the now-disgraced money manager, the SEC alleged.

Walgreen fiscal 3Q profit falls 9 percent

NEW YORK (AP)—Drugstore operator Walgreen Co. said Monday its profit fell 9 percent in the fiscal third quarter as greater expenses, including those related to its reorganization efforts, offset rising sales. Deerfield, Ill.-based Walgreen aims to cut its annual expenses by $1 billion starting in 2011, but cost-cutting initiatives have resulted in hefty restructuring costs. In the quarter ended May 31, the company earned $522 million, or 53 cents per share, down from $572 million, or 58 cents per share, a year ago. That missed the average 56-cent estimate expected by analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters. Gross margins declined 0.8 percentage points to 27.5 percent as the company offered more discounts, sold less profitable products and set aside more money for inventory accounting.

Apple: More than 1M new-model iPhones sold

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple Inc. sold more than a million units of its latest iPhone model in the first three days, making it the most successful debut for a smart phone yet. The iPhone 3G S went on sale Friday in the U.S. and seven other countries. When Apple Inc. launched the previous model last year, it also sold one million units in the first three days, but that model launched simultaneously in 22 countries. Piper Jaffray analyst Gene Munster had expected the Cupertino, Calif., company to sell half a million 3G S in the first three days.

Nation

DC transit train smashes into another, 6 killed

WASHINGTON (AP)—One Metro transit train smashed into the rear of another at the height of the capital city's Monday evening rush hour, killing at least six people and injuring scores of others as the front end of the trailing train jackknifed violently into the air and fell atop the first.

Cars of both trains were ripped open and smashed together in the worst accident in the Metrorail system's 33-year history. District of Columbia fire spokesman Alan Etter said crews had to cut some people out of what he described as a "mass casualty event." Rescue workers propped steel ladders up to the upper train cars to help survivors scramble to safety. Seats from the smashed cars spilled out onto the track.

D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty said six were confirmed dead. Fire Chief Dennis Rubin said rescue workers treated 76 people at the scene and sent some of them to local hospitals, six with critical injuries. A search for further victims continued into the night.

A Metro official said the dead included the operator of the trailing train. Her name was not immediately released.

President Barack Obama sent his condolences to the victims of the crash.

"Michelle and I were saddened by the terrible accident in Northeast Washington, D.C., today," Obama said in a statement issued Monday night. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends affected by this tragedy."

AP

District of Columbia Fire and Emergency workers at the site of a rush-hour collision between two Metro transit trains in northeast Washington, D.C. Monday, June 22, 2009.

The president also thanked rescue personnel who helped to save lives.

The crash around 5 p.m. EDT took place on the system's red line, Metro's busiest, which runs below ground for much of its length but is at ground level at the accident site near the Maryland border in northeast Washington.

Metro chief John Catoe said the first train was stopped on the tracks, waiting for another to clear the station ahead, when the trailing train, one of the oldest in the Metro fleet, plowed into it from behind.

Officials had no explanation for the accident. The National Transportation Safety Board took charge of the investigation and sent a team to the site. DC police and the FBI also had investigators at the scene to help search the wreckage for any overlooked injured or dead passengers and evidence.

700 NYC teachers are paid to do nothing

NEW YORK (AP)—Hundreds of New York City public school teachers accused of offenses ranging from insubordination to sexual misconduct are being paid their full salaries to sit around all day playing Scrabble, surfing the Internet or just staring at the wall, if that's what they want to do.

Because their union contract makes it extremely difficult to fire them, the teachers have been banished by the school system to its "rubber rooms"—off-campus office space where they wait months, even years, for their disciplinary hearings.

The 700 or so teachers can practice yoga, work on their novels, paint portraits of their colleagues—pretty much anything but school work. They have summer vacation just like their classroom colleagues and enjoy weekends and holidays through the school year.

"You just basically sit there for eight hours," said Orlando Ramos, who spent seven months in a rubber room, officially known as a temporary reassignment center, in 2004-05. "I saw several near-fights. `This is my seat.' `I've been sitting here for six months.' That sort of thing."

Ramos was an assistant principal in East Harlem when he was accused of lying at a hearing on whether to suspend a student. Ramos denied the allegation but quit before his case was resolved and took a job in California.

Because the teachers collect their full salaries of $70,000 or more, the city Department of Education estimates the practice costs the taxpayers $65 million a year. The department blames union rules.

Obama, citing his smoking woes, signs tobacco law

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lamenting his first teenage cigarette, President Barack Obama ruefully admitted on Monday that he's spent his adult life fighting the habit. Then he signed the nation's toughest anti-smoking law, aiming to keep thousands of other teens from getting hooked.

Obama praised the historic legislation, which gives the Food and Drug Administration unprecedented authority to regulate what goes into tobacco products, to make public the ingredients and to prohibit marketing campaigns geared toward children.

But he didn't say how his own struggle was coming since he moved into the White House. And aides were no more forthcoming.

As senator, candidate and now president, Obama has veered between frank and cagey about his personal battle with smoking. He promised his wife, Michelle, more than two years ago that he would quit if she let him seek the White House.

He has often acknowledged since that he has "fallen off the wagon." But he hardly ever provides specifics. And though White House aides pack nicotine gum in their jackets to help him resist, they also refuse to give a clear answer to the question of whether the president still sneaks a smoke now and again.

"I hate it," Michelle Obama told CBS' "60 Minutes" during the presidential campaign's early days. "That's why he doesn't do it anymore, I'm proud to say. I outed him—I'm the one who outed him on the smoking. That was one of my prerequisites for, you know, entering this race is that, you know, he couldn't be a smoking president."

Well, not exactly.

During Obama's two-year White House bid, he was known to occasionally bum a cigarette from a staff member—while also making sure to emphasize his efforts to stop for good and his progress from his onetime five-smoke-a-day average.

During Monday's bill signing, Obama focused on how the new law would help keep future generations of kids away from the dangerous habit. The president mentioned his own experience very briefly—just 30 words.

Spokesman: SC governor hiking Appalachian Trail

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford has been hiking along the Appalachian Trail, a spokesman said Monday night, explaining a dayslong absence that perplexed fellow state leaders.

Sanford hadn't been at work for several days and his office hadn't been in touch with him. The lieutenant governor, other fellow lawmakers and even his wife said they didn't know where he was, leading critics to question who was in charge of South Carolina.

"I cannot take lightly that his staff has not had communication with him for more than four days, and that no one, including his own family, knows his whereabouts," said Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer. Bauer said he'd been rebuffed by the governor's staff when he tried to find out where Sanford was.

The Republican governor left town on Thursday, his spokesman Joel Sawyer said, with plans to hike the trail, which passes through 14 states but doesn't cross South Carolina. Sawyer said he didn't know where exactly Sanford was along the 2,200-mile trail and declined to discuss Sanford's travel arrangements or who, if anyone, was hiking with him. The governor is expected back later this week.

"He's an avid outdoorsman," Sawyer said. "Nobody's ever accused our governor of being conventional."

Sanford, who's also chairman of the Republican Governors Association, earned a reputation as the nation's most vocal anti-bailout governor by refusing $700 million in federal stimulus money for schools until he lost a court battle earlier this month.

"He's just up there to kind of clear his head after the legislative session," Sawyer told The Associated Press in an interview. Sawyer wasn't aware that anyone on Sanford's staff had spoken to the governor since Thursday.

Sawyer said if there were an emergency, the office would consult with other state officials before making any decisions.

"We knew he would be difficult to reach, and that he would be checking in infrequently," Sawyer said in a statement.

First lady Jenny Sanford said earlier Monday she had not spoken with her husband for several days, including Father's Day. The Sanfords have four sons.

ACROSS THE NATION

Georgia man wins big lottery prizes twice in week

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—A 62-year-old man struck it big twice in the Georgia Lottery. Earl Fritz won the top prize of $777,777 in the instant game Super Lucky 7's. That dwarfed the $1,000 he won a week earlier in a different game. The carpenter said he felt lucky a week ago and now feels a little bit luckier. Fritz said he didn't realize he had won the big prize at first because he wasn't wearing his glasses. The first win came in the instant game Extreme Green. Fritz and his wife have not decided what to do with the money.

Indiana man sought in wife's killing arrested

BROWNSBURG, Ind. (AP)—An Indiana man arrested Monday night was accused of stabbing his estranged wife to death while his two daughters, 12 and 8, hid in a closet. Authorities said the older girl called 911 and told a dispatcher, "Daddy killed Mommy." Joseph L. Warnock, 41, was arrested about 9 p.m. in the same neighborhood of Brownsburg where he had once lived with his wife, Angela Warnock, 38, said Lt. Roger Call of the Hendricks County Sheriff's Department. The wife was found stabbed in her bed at home on Sunday night. Investigators say the couple was going through a divorce and she had a protective order requiring him to stay away from her and their daughters. The killing came two days after the wife obtained a two-year extension on the order.

Which way to Bay? Baby sea lion rescued on freeway

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A baby sea lion has been rescued after wandering onto a busy San Francisco Bay area freeway. Drivers on I-880 started calling authorities early Monday morning after spotting the creature waddling along the center divider near the Oakland Coliseum. California Highway Patrol Officer Peter Van Eckhardt said the sea lion may have come from a San Francisco Bay estuary nearby. The pup was taken to the Marine Mammal Center in Marine County, where spokesman Jim Oswald said the animal is active and alert but malnourished. A male sea lion was found on another highway in May, but died from malnourishment.

Quake jolts Anchorage, Alaska, but damage minimal

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A strong earthquake jolted a swath of southern Alaska on Monday, sending people diving under desks and huddling in doorways but causing little damage. The U.S. Geological Survey said the 5.4 magnitude temblor struck about 24 miles from the town of Willow at 11:28 a.m. The rumbling lasted several moments in Anchorage, 58 miles from the epicenter, and was felt as far south as Kenai and north to Fairbanks, a span of 300 miles. "Things were swinging pretty good and shaking, like pictures on the wall, bottles rattling—and my blood pressure went up at least 20 points," said Pam Rannals, a bartender in Talkeetna, about 30 miles from the epicenter. "We had bears in the parking lot last night and now the earthquake. Those are the talk of the town."

Asia

RP reports 1st swine flu-related death

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines confirmed Monday its first swine flu-related death—a 49-year-old woman who died from congestive heart failure but who also tested positive for the H1N1 virus.

The fatality is the second in the Asia-Pacific region related to swine flu, following the death of a man in Australia on Friday.

Philippine Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the woman's chronic heart disease was aggravated by severe pneumonia. She started to have flu-like symptoms such as dry cough, fever, chills and difficulty breathing two days before her death on June 19.

A throat swab revealed she was also infected with the swine flu virus.

Duque said post-autopsy findings disclose that the death was caused by heart failure "aggravated by severe pneumonia either bacterial, viral or both."

Filipino women wear protective masks as they walk inside the East Avenue hospital compound in Quezon City, north of Manila, Philippines on Monday June 22, 2009. AP

Given the available information, health authorities cannot conclude that the death is due to H1N1. In other countries that have reported swine flu deaths, the majority have had pre-existing conditions, he added.

Duque said the Philippines has 17 more confirmed swine flu cases, bringing the total to 445—though 84 percent of the total cases have already recovered.

Australian authorities on Sunday listed a 26-year-old Aboriginal man who died in the southern city of Adelaide on Friday as a "suspected" swine flu death. Although the man had tested positive for the virus, authorities doubt it killed him because he also had pre-existing chronic diseases.

Meanwhile, the first case of swine flu was reported in Iran. A report on the Web site of the Iranian Health Ministry said the patient is a 16-year-old Iranian boy who lives in the United States and arrived in Iran with his parents.

Official: N. Korean ship carries weapons to Myanmar

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A North Korean-flagged ship under close watch in Asian waters is believed to be heading toward Myanmar carrying small arms cargo banned under a new U.N. resolution, a South Korean intelligence official said Monday.

Still, analysts say a high seas interception—something North Korea has said it would consider an act of war—is unlikely.

The Kang Nam, accused of engaging in illicit trade in the past, is the first vessel monitored under the new sanctions designed to punish the North for its defiant nuclear test last month. The U.S. military began tracking the ship after it left a North Korean port on Wednesday on suspicion it was carrying illicit weapons.

A South Korean intelligence official said Monday that his agency believes the North Korean ship is carrying small weapons and is sailing toward the Myanmar city of Yangon. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity citing the sensitive nature of the information, said he could provide no further details.

Myanmar's military government, which faces an arms embargo from the U.S. and the European Union, reportedly has bought weapons from North Korea in the past.

The Irrawaddy, an online magazine operated by independent exiled journalists from Myanmar, reported Monday that the North Korean ship would dock at the Thilawa port, some 20 miles (30 kilometers) south of Yangon, in the next few days.

Taliban commander shot dead in northwest Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Taliban faction leader who criticized the militant group's Pakistani head over attacks that killed civilians was fatally shot Tuesday, reportedly by one of his own guards.

The attack on Qari Zainuddin appeared to be a sign that divisions within the Taliban have broken into the open as they come under military assault. The army is clearing out militants from the Swat Valley and has been pounding strongholds of Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud in the South Waziristan tribal region bordering Afghanistan in apparent preparation for a major offensive.

Zainuddin was gunned down in nearby town of Dera Ismail Khan. He had emerged as Mehsud's chief rival.

Dr. Mahmood Khan Bitani told The Associated Press that he pronounced Zainuddin dead on arrival at a local hospital with gunshot wounds to the head and chest.

Baz Mohammad, an aide of the militant leader who also was wounded, said a guard barged into a room at Zainuddin's compound after morning prayers and opened fire. He accused Mehsud of being behind the attack.

"It was definitely Baitullah's man who infiltrated our ranks, and he has done his job," Mohammad told AP, vowing to avenge the death.

A spokesman for Mehsud could not immediately be reached for comment on the accusation.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide bomber kills 2 civilians in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—A suicide car bomber attacked a convoy of international troops in central Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing two Afghan civilians, officials said. The driver of the car rammed into the convoy on a highway in Ghazni province about 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) west of Ghazni city, said Ismail Jahangir, a spokesman for the provincial governor. Jahangir said he had no information about whether any international troops were killed or wounded in the blast. Civilian deaths have become an increasingly contentious issue in Afghanistan as worsening violence has turned more villagers and passersby into victims. While much of the debate has focused on airstrikes by international troops, the majority have been attributed to the Taliban and other militants.

Indonesian elephant fossil opens window to past

BANDUNG, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian scientists are reconstructing the largest, most complete skeleton of a prehistoric giant elephant ever found in the tropics, a finding that may offer new clues into the largely mysterious origins of its modern Asian cousin. The prehistoric elephant is believed to have been submerged in quicksand shortly after dying on a riverbed in Java around 200,000 years ago. Its bones—almost perfectly preserved—were discovered by chance in March when an old sand quarry collapsed during monsoon rains. The animal stood four meters (13-feet) tall, five meters (16-feet) long and weighed more than 10 tons—closer in size to the woolly mammoth of the same period than to the great Asian mammals now on Earth.

World

No annulment of vote, says Iran's electoral body

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's top electoral body, the Guardian Council, found "no major fraud" in the disputed June 12 election and ruled out annulling the the results, Iran's state TV Tuesday quoted a spokesman for the council as saying.

Opposition supporters, who allege systematic fraud, have demanded a new election and have staged near-daily protests challenging the claim that hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won re-election by a landslide.

With Tuesday's announcement, Iran's regime appeared to be closing another door to compromise. Iran's supreme leader had already praised Ahmadinejad as the winner and ordered post-election protesters off the streets. On Monday, the feared Revolutionary Guard threatened a crackdown if protests persist.

Such threats and the deaths of at least 17 people since the start of the protests have prompted growing concern by the international community about the fate of opposition supporters. In New York, U.N. Secretary Ban Ki-moon urged an "immediate stop to the arrests, threats and use of force," U.N. spokeswoman Michele Montas said at U.N. headquarters Monday.

The announcement by the Guardian Council came a day after it said—in a rare acknowledgment—that there had been voting irregularities in 50 districts, including local vote counts that exceeded the number of eligible voters. However, the council said the discrepancies were not widespread enough to affect the result. The council agreed last week to investigate opposition complaints of problems in the voting.

The council found "no major fraud or breach in the election," a spokesman, Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei, was quoted by Iran's state-run English language Press TV as saying.

"Therefore, there is no possibility of an annulment taking place," he said.

Ahmadinejad's main challenger, Mir Hossein Mousavi, has charged the election was a fraud and insists he is the true winner.

In a sign of a growing crackdown, Tehran riot police fired tear gas and live bullets Monday to break up about 200 protesters paying tribute to a young woman whose apparent shooting death was captured on video and circulated worldwide.

A man identifying himself as the woman's boyfriend later said he had tried to dissuade her from attending the protests because of the risk, but that she told him she wanted democracy and freedom for the people of Iran.

Amateur video turns woman into icon of Iran unrest

CAIRO (AP)—She lies in the Tehran street with her headscarf half-off, blood pooling around her jeans and white sneakers.

"Don't be afraid, Neda dear, don't be afraid," a white-haired man says desperately in Persian. Another man presses on her chest, trying to keep her alive.

Scarlet blood gushes from her nose and mouth and courses across her pale face. Men and women scream in horror as they realize she is dead or dying.

The death of the woman identified as Neda Agha Soltan was captured on amateur videos and spread around the world in less than 48 hours on YouTube, Facebook, blogs and Twitter, searing the image into millions of minds. It turned the woman described as a 27-year-old music student into an instant icon of the clash between Iran's cleric-led government and the self-described "green wave" movement that claims hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stole his June 12 re-election through fraud.

Andres could grow into hurricane, brush Mexico

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—Tropical Storm Andres was expected to grow into the Pacific season's first hurricane Tuesday and deal a glancing blow to southwestern Mexico before churning its way up the coast past picturesque towns popular with foreign retirees.

Mexico issued a hurricane warning for the Pacific coast from just south of Manzanillo north to near Puerto Vallarta. To the south, officials in Acapulco prepared 120 shelters and warned residents to stay indoors, especially some 15,000 people in zones most at risk for flooding. Heavy rains late Sunday knocked down a few trees in the resort city.

Forecasters said Andres was likely to brush the coast at hurricane strength around the port city of Manzanillo on Tuesday. Forecast models showed its center later pushing up the coast near towns such as Barra de Navidad that are home to some American and Canadian expatriates.

At Barra de Navidad, northwest of Manzanillo, Agapito Garcia Martinez, security manager at the Grand Bay Hotel-Isla Navidad Resort, said Monday that hotel staff were preparing, like taking in beach furniture and protecting hotel windows, but had not yet been advised by authorities to so.

Weather was still sunny despite stronger-than-usual winds and guests were still checking in normally to the hotel, he said. But that could change by Tuesday, when Andres drew closer, he noted.

"Tomorrow, we expect to have a lot of water," Garcia Martinez said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Sarkozy says burqas are 'not welcome' in France

PARIS (AP)—President Nicolas Sarkozy declared Monday that the Islamic burqa is not welcome in France, branding the face-covering, body-length gown as a symbol of subservience that suppresses women's identities and turns them into "prisoners behind a screen." But there was a mixed message in the tough words: an admission that the country's long-held principle of ethnic assimilation—which insists that newcomers shed their traditions and adapt to French culture—is failing because it doesn't give immigrants and their French-born children a fair chance. In a high-profile speech to lawmakers in the historic chateau at Versailles, Sarkozy said the head-to-toe Muslim body coverings were in disaccord with French values—some of the strongest language against burqas from a European leader at a time when some Western officials have been seeking to ease tensions with the Muslim world.

25 arrests in Paris jewel robbery of Harry Winston

PARIS (AP)—French police arrested 25 suspects Monday in connection with last year's multimillion-dollar robbery at Harry Winston jewelers and recovered some of the stolen rings, necklaces and watches. The robbers, some dressed as women and wearing wigs, had grabbed euro85 million ($118 million) worth of loot Dec. 5 at the store on a fashionable street off the Champs-Elysees. It was one of France's largest jewelry thefts. French investigators and police had been watching suspects in and around Paris for months. On Sunday, they learned foreigners were on their way to collect some of the booty, police said Monday on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about current cases.

Campus Life

From homeless to HARVARD

By ESMERALDA BERMUDEZ
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Khadijah Williams stepped into chemistry class and instantly tuned out the commotion.

She walked past students laughing, gossiping, napping and combing one another's hair. Past a cellphone blaring rap songs. And past a substitute teacher sitting in a near-daze.

Quietly, the 18-year-old settled into an empty table, flipped open her physics book and focused. Nothing mattered now except homework.

"No wonder you're going to Harvard," a girl teased her.

Around here, Khadijah is known as "Harvard girl," the "smart girl" and the girl with the contagious smile who landed at Jefferson High School only 18 months ago.

What students don't know is that she is also a homeless girl.

As long as she can remember, Khadijah has floated from shelters to motels to armories along the West Coast with her mother. She has attended 12 schools in 12 years; lived out of garbage bags among pimps, prostitutes and drug dealers. Every morning, she upheld her dignity, making sure she didn't smell or look disheveled.

On the streets, she learned how to hunt for their next meal, plot the next bus route and help choose a secure place to sleep—survival skills she applied with passion to her education.

Only a few mentors and Harvard officials know her background. She never wanted other students to know her secret—not until her plane left for the East Coast hours after her graduation Friday evening.

"I was so proud of being smart I never wanted people to say, 'You got the easy way out because you're homeless,'" she said. "I never saw it as an excuse."

"I have felt the anger at having to catch up in school...being bullied because they knew I was poor, different, and read too much," she wrote in her college essays. "I knew that if I wanted to become a smart, successful scholar, I should talk to other smart people."

Khadijah was in third grade when she first realized the power of test scores, placing in the 99th percentile on a state of California exam. Her teachers marked the 9-year-old as gifted, a special category that Khadijah, even at that early age, vowed to keep.

"I still remember that exact number," Khadijah said. "It meant only 0.01 students tested better than I did."

In the years that followed, her mother, Chantwuan Williams, pulled her out of school eight more times. When shelters closed, money ran out or her mother did not feel safe, they packed what little they carried and boarded buses to find housing in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Ventura, San Diego, San Bernardino and Orange County, staying for months, at most, in one place.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Khadijah Williams, center, talks with her mother Chantwaun Williams, left, and her sister Jeanine Williams, 11, at her mother's storage room in Los Angeles. Khadijah, 18, changed into her cap and gown for her senior portrait at Jefferson High School.

She finished only half of fourth grade, half of fifth and skipped sixth. Seventh grade was split between Los Angeles and San Diego. Eighth grade consisted of two weeks in San Bernardino.

At every stop, Khadijah pushed to keep herself in each school's gifted program. She read nutrition charts, newspapers and four to five books a month, anything to transport her mind away from the chaos and the sour smell.

At school, she was the outsider. At the shelter, she was often bullied. "You ain't college-bound," the pimps barked. "You live in Skid Row!"

In 10th grade, Khadijah realized that if she wanted to succeed, she couldn't do it alone. She began to reach out to organizations and mentors: the Upward Bound Program, Higher Edge L.A., Experience Berkeley and South Central Scholars; teachers, counselors and college alumni networks. They helped her enroll in summer community college classes, gave her access to computers and scholarship applications and taught her about networking.

When she enrolled in the fall of her junior year at Jefferson High School, located about five miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles, she was determined to stay put, regardless of where her mother moved. Graduation was not far off, and she needed strong college letters of recommendation from teachers who were familiar with her work.

This soon meant commuting by bus from an Orange County armory. She awoke at 4 a.m. and returned at 11 p.m., and kept her grade-point average at just below a 4.0 while participating in the Academic Decathlon, the debate team and leading the school's track and field team.

"That's when I was really stressed," she says, at once sighing and laughing.

Khadijah graduated Friday evening with high honors, fourth in her class. She was accepted to more than 20 universities nationwide, including Brown, Columbia, Amherst and Williams. She chose a full scholarship to Harvard and aspires to become an education attorney.

■ ■ ■

"She tried her best; she never smoked or drank, never did drugs, and she never put us in abusive situations. However, that was the best she could do."

There are questions about her mother Khadijah is not ready to ask, answers she is not ready to hear. How did her mother end up on the streets? How come she never found a stable home for her daughters? Why wasn't there family to turn to, no father, no grandparents? And what will become of her little sister?

"I don't know. I don't know," is often her response. Ask personal questions about her mother and the fire in Khadijah's eyes turns dim. She knows when she arrives in Cambridge, Mass., she will need to seek counseling. So much of her life is a blur.

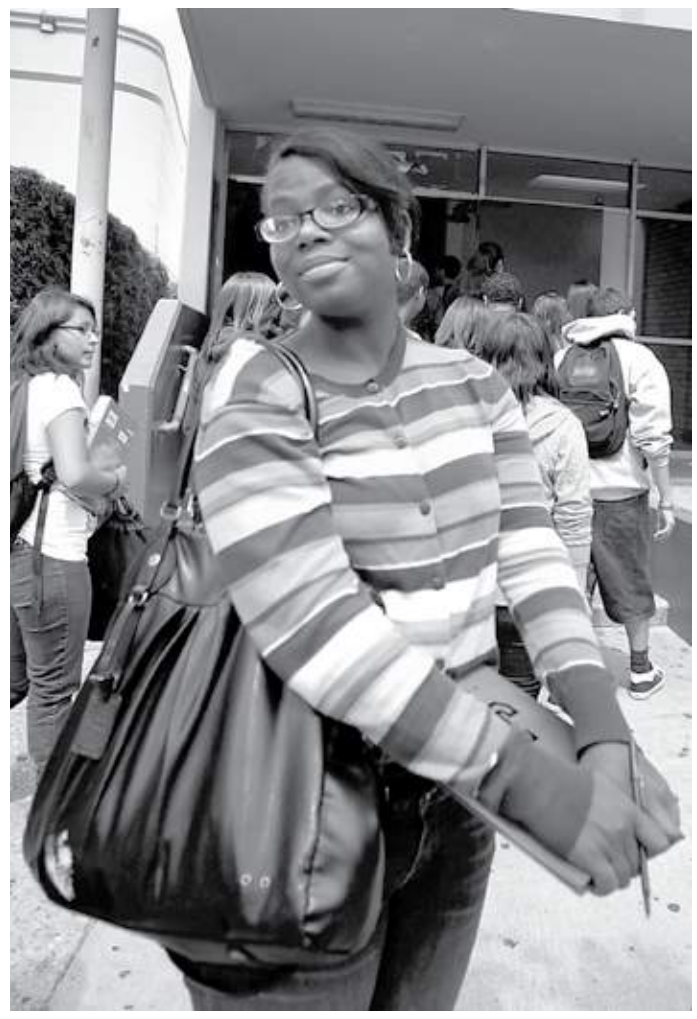
She knows she was born in Brooklyn to a 14-year-old mother. She says she thinks her mother might have been ostracized from her family. She says her mother may have tried to attend school, but the stress of a baby proved too much. When Khadijah was a toddler, they moved to California. A few years later, Jeanine, her younger sister, was born.

She has chosen not to criticize her mother. Instead Khadijah said she inspired her to learn. "She would tell me I had a gift; she would call me Oprah."

When her college applications were due in December, James and Patricia London of South Central Scholars invited Khadijah to their home in Rancho Palos Verdes to help her write her essays.

When they went to return her to Skid Row, her mother and sister were gone.

Khadijah accepted the Londons' invitation to spend the rest of her school year with them.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Khadijah Williams, 18, looks for friends to sign her yearbook at Jefferson High School in Los Angeles.

In their comfortable hilltop home, Khadijah learned a new set of lessons. The orthopedic doctor and nurse taught her table manners, money management and grooming.

She won't be the first homeless student to arrive at Harvard.

Julie Hilden, the Harvard interviewer who met with Khadijah to gauge whether she should be accepted, said it was clear from the start that Khadijah was a top candidate. But school officials had to make sure they could provide what she needed to make the transition successful.

They plan to connect her with faculty mentors and potentially, a host family to check in with every so often. She will also attend a Harvard summer program at Cornell to take college-prep courses.

"I strongly recommended her," Hilden said. "I told them, 'If you don't take her, you might be missing out on the next Michelle Obama. Don't make this mistake.' "

■ ■ ■

"I think about how I can convince my peers about the value of education. ... I have found that after all the teasing, these peers start to respect me . ... I decided that I could be the one to uplift my peers .... My work is far reaching and never finished."

Khadijah expected to feel more connected after nearly two years at Jefferson, to make at least one good friend.

Students flock to the smart girl for help with homework and tests and class questions. She walks through campus tenderly waving and smiling and complimenting everyone she knows.

But when prom pictures arrive, they show her posing alone in a silky black and white dress. In her yearbook, hundreds of familiar faces look back, but the memories are missing.

"It's a nice, glossy, shiny, colorful yearbook," she said. "But it feels like they're all strangers. I'm nowhere in these pages."

In the last six months, she saw her mother only a few times and on Thursday tried to find her. Khadijah headed to a south Los Angeles storage facility where they last stored their belongings.

She found Chantwuan sitting on a garbage bag full of clothes.

"Khadijah's here!" her sister Jeanine yells. Chantwuan's face lit up.

She explained the details of her graduation, the bus route to get there and gave her mother a prom picture.

There is no talk of coming home for Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Proudly, Khadijah modeled her hunter green graduation cap and gown and practiced switching the tassel from left to right as she would during the ceremony.

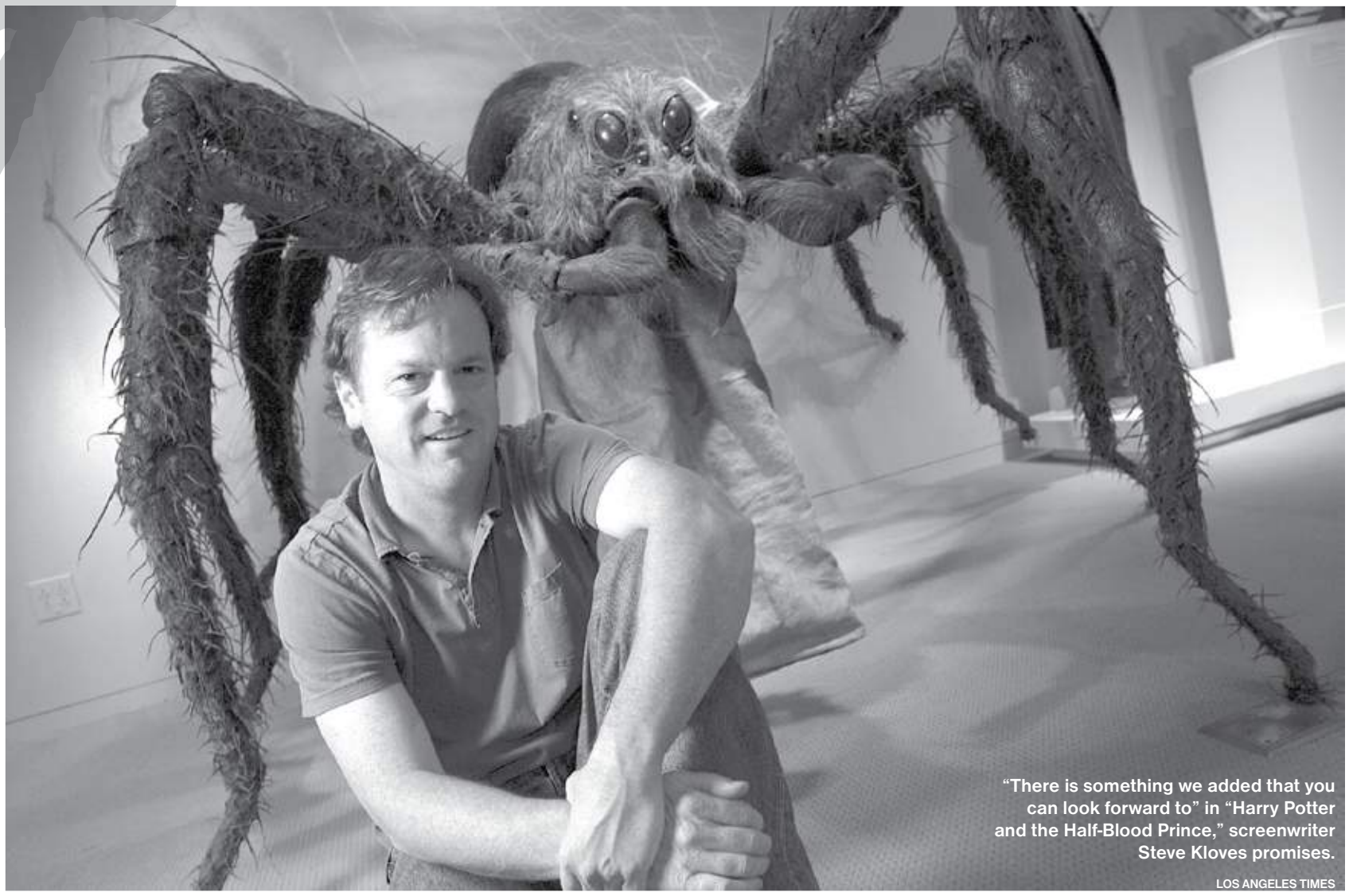
"Look at you," her mother says. "You're really going to Harvard, huh?"

"Yeah," she says, pausing. "I'm going to Harvard."

Life & Style

Kloves has his prints over 'Half-Blood Prince'

By DENISE MARTIN
(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



"There is something we added that you can look forward to" in "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," screenwriter Steve Kloves promises.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Screenwriter Steve Kloves, who, with the exception of "The Order of the Phoenix," has adapted all the "Harry Potter" books for film, talks about the upcoming "Half-Blood Prince," the confrontation between Alan Rickman's Snape and Michael Gambon's Dumbledore and reveals that he created an entirely new scene.

Question: Do you work with (author) J.K. Rowling when you're hammering out a script, or do you have total freedom to adapt as you please?

Answer: I'm a little too free. Jo's become a really good friend, one of my best friends, and I wish I had more of her. When I first got to know Jo, she wasn't married, and now she is married and has kids, so she's gotten a much bigger life. Now, we mostly correspond through e-mail, and she's very responsive and very helpful, but from the beginning she has always said to me, "I know the movies will be very different. I know they can't be the books, and I don't want them to be the books. The only thing that matters to me is that you stay true to the characters." So that's always been the one thing I feel very much in charge of, protecting the characters, and it's the thing that upsets me the most when I feel the characters are being violated. That's when I push back hard.

Q: Has that happened on any of the films?

A: There's one moment in "The Chamber of Secrets" that I don't like, where Hagrid enters Hogwarts at the end of the movie and the whole group of assembled students applaud him. That would not happen. And it really upset me. I felt it was a real violation of character. And that was odd because (director) Christopher Columbus is a Potter fiend. He carried the book around with him. You could never catch Chris on anything. But I think Chris felt that he wanted the release of that moment. It was a mild disagreement.

Q: What kind of things do you run by Rowling?

A: A range of things, even something really simple. I once asked about the 12 uses of dragon's blood, which is referenced in the books. There are writers who would write "12 uses of dragon's blood" and not have a clue what they are; it just sounds cool. But I e-mailed her to ask (and this was 10 years ago), and 25 seconds later I get an e-mail back with a list.

Q: Do tell. She's only mentioned "oven cleaner" in interviews.

A: One is an oven cleaner, yes. Another is a spot remover. ... It was really amazing. Really, the books are only the thinnest surface of what she knows about the series. Where Jo is helpful in a more serious way for me is when I want to know more about motivation or background, when Harry realized certain things, when characters understood things. There was one case where I was violating a plot thing—it had something to do with Dobby, I think—and she said, "No, you don't want to do that," as she knew what was to come. She's a great resource for problem solving and she has such a facile mind, she can help with complicated things. Though her plots are so fiendish that they're really difficult for cinema.

Q: What, if anything, can you say about the climactic moment between Snape and Dumbledore? In the book, it's a short but intense scene.

A: It is informed by everything (Potter readers) have come to know is true. So if you watch the film carefully, there are performance moments that are quite extraordinary, Alan Rickman (who plays Snape) especially. There is something we added that you can look forward to, a short scene between Harry and Snape prior to the big event. It'll be interesting to see how it plays to the audience. It should be a haunting moment for Harry. While I was writing, I just had a notion about a moment between him and Snape, something Harry could look back on and question as to why he didn't act differently.

Q: I've also read that most of Dumbledore's memories of young Voldemort, then Tom Riddle, have been cut from the film. (Not to mention: Dumbledore's funeral!)

A: In my original draft, I had every single memory but one, I believe. I even dramatized a couple of things that weren't in the book in terms of Voldemort, like the death of Tom's parents, things like that. I'm a Harry Potter fan, so my first drafts tend to reflect that, in that they tend to be long and all-inclusive. When (director) David Yates came in, he had a very specific point of view, which was that he wanted to showcase Voldemort's rise without getting overly involved with his past as Riddle. He didn't think that most of the memories would be as compelling on-screen as they are on the page. He liked them in the script, but he really felt that in the movie experience Voldemort's story was more important than young Riddle's. We went back and forth on that for quite a bit. But he was very convincing, and I think it wound up working out well.

Q: Are there any other changes or additions that you can talk about?

A: I know one thing David is very proud of is getting Quidditch right. I do think it's the first time that it feels like a sport. And it's comic, which is fun. Rupert Grint (who plays Ron) is great. We also do a lot with the kids coming of age, navigating sexual politics and all that. It's pretty interesting to see these characters doing that because the movies have always been a bit chaste, and they continue to be on some level, but there's more happening in this one. You realize how complicated it is between boys and girls. It's a lot of fun seeing Ron navigate his first girlfriend.

Q: Speaking of ... how does the coming together of Ginny and Harry play out when we've all fallen for Cho Chang in the previous films?

A: It's interesting in the way it's played out. I'm very happy with the moment they consummate their feelings. It was a nice scene and David did it really well. It's sweet. For any longtime Potter fan, it's now that you begin to see people coming together, but in doing so, it strains the old relationships and the relationships that are the truest and the most trusted. That's potentially dangerous, but it's also a part of growing up. You have to strain those relationships to realize how important they are.

Q: How satisfied are you with the finished film?

A: I haven't seen the final version. It was not fully scored when I saw it. But I liked what I saw a lot. It's quite powerful, and genuinely moving at times. Even at times people might not expect. There are some intense emotional moments. It feels more mature. I'm very excited about the next two movies because they're even more mature and the kids are older. "Half-Blood Prince" is quite a leap from "Order of the Phoenix." It's quite different. It's not an action movie in the same way. But the last two films will be hugely different from all that have preceded them.

A scene from the upcoming "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

Chris Brown pleads guilty to assault

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown has pleaded guilty to one count of felony assault on pop star Rihanna. Brown entered his plea before a preliminary hearing was scheduled to start in Los Angeles on Monday. Rihanna had been on standby to testify.

Brown will be sentenced on Aug. 5, but the terms of the plea deal call for him to serve five years of formal probation and six months—roughly 1,400 hours—of community labor. Brown will be able to complete his probation in his home state of Virginia; he will have to do either graffiti removal or roadside cleanup for his service.

A spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office said the terms were in line with what others receive when they're charged with similar crimes and who have no prior criminal history.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Patricia Schnegg also ordered the singer to stay away from Rihanna.

After Brown entered his plea and left the courtroom, Rihanna entered and was addressed by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Patricia Schnegg, who explained to the Barbados-born singer that she had issued a stay-away order.

Rihanna, 21, had not been seeking a stay-away order, but the judge imposed one. The order requires that Brown and Rihanna stay at least 50 yards from each, except at industry events when the distance is reduced to 10 yards.

The judge also told Rihanna it's not a one-way order and she will be in violation if she gets closer to Brown than the order allows.

Rihanna was informed of the deal about an hour before she could have been called as a witness, her attorney, Donald Etra, said. He said the singer "did not object" to the terms of the deal.

AP

Chris Brown, left, and attorney Mark Geragos are seen during the preliminary hearing in the Chris Brown's felony assault case on Monday, June 22, 2009, in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

AP

Donald Etra, left, and Rihanna are seen during the preliminary hearing in the Chris Brown felony assault case on Monday, June 22, 2009, in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Schnegg accepted Brown's plea, but expressed some concerns because Brown is not a California resident. She said Brown likely will be allowed to do his community service in his home state of Virginia. He'll have to return to California for updates every three months. He'll also be required to attend domestic violence classes.

Brown spoke softly throughout the hearing as he waived his rights and told the judge he understood the gravity of his plea.

"I think it's commendable you took responsibility for your conduct," Schnegg told Brown.

She said she hoped "the terms and conditions of your probation will have some meaning."

The deal provides an end to a case that sparked intense media interest and severe backlash against Brown. Sponsors and radio stations dropped him, and the singer had to cancel several high-profile appearances, including a performance at the Grammys.

The singer once known for his squeaky-clean image now has a substantial blemish on his record. He must now also remain out of trouble for the foreseeable future.

Lawyers for Brown and Rihanna have refused to discuss the status of the pair's relationship.

Brown was arrested Feb. 8, hours after police say he hit and threatened Rihanna after leaving a pre-Grammy party in Los Angeles. He was later charged with felony assault likely to produce great bodily harm and making criminal threats.

If convicted, the singer faced sentences ranging up to nearly five years in prison.

Brown, 20, rose to fame after the 2005 hit "Run It!" and his popularity has only grown. He was nominated for a Grammy for "No Air" with Jordin Sparks and named Billboard's top artist in 2008.

In the months since the incident, both musicians have gradually appeared in public more frequently. Lately they have been photographed separately, including at a National Basketball Association finals game between the Orlando Magic and Los Angeles Lakers.

Rihanna, 21, recorded one of 2007's most popular songs with "Umbrella" and has numerous other hits. Her looks have made her a cover girl for magazines, as well as a pitchwoman for Cover Girl cosmetics.

TV's Jon and Kate Gosselin say they're divorcing

NEW YORK (AP)—Celebrity parents Jon and Kate Gosselin say they plan to divorce.

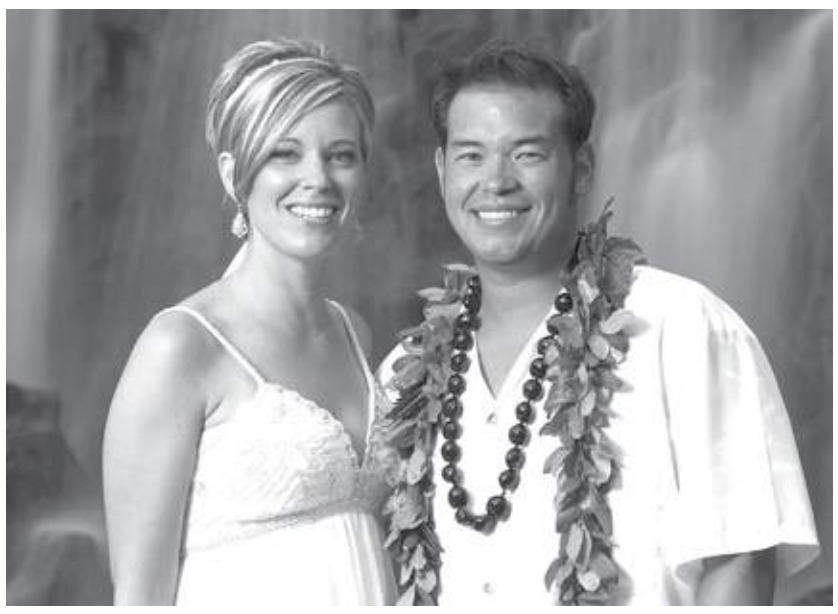
The co-stars of "Jon & Kate Plus 8," who are parents of 5-year-old sextuplets and 8-year-old twins, spoke of their decision to separate during Monday's episode of the TLC reality series. Near the end of the hour-long episode, a title card summed things up in stark terms: It said that on Monday, "legal proceedings were initiated in Pennsylvania to dissolve the 10-year marriage of Jon and Kate Gosselin."

The network had been promising a major on-air decision from the couple, whose increasingly troubled marriage has dominated the series in recent weeks, as well as fueling a firestorm of tabloid coverage. "We've been dealing a long time with this," Kate said, speaking of her marital problems and the attendant publicity.

"It's been a hard seven or eight months," Jon said in one of his separate on-camera sessions. "It's been a really hard last four months. This is the hardest episode ever."

The beginning of the program was taken up with the delivery and assembly of prefab playhouses for the Gosselin kids. It was the sort of family activity that had formed the crux of the series, now in its fifth season, as it was originally envisioned: A reality show that would chronicle the challenges of raising a supersized family.

But even during this interlude, Kate and Jon were barely speaking. Where to install the four playhouses was a source of friction between them.



AP

In this publicity image released by TLC, reality TV stars, Jon Gosselin, right, and his wife Kate Gosselin, from the TLC series, "Jon & Kate Plus 8," are shown in Hawaii.

"My stomach is churning because I know this is gonna cause a huge fight," Kate told the camera as the installation process began in their yard.

The latter part of the show focused on the couple as they discussed the painful decision they have settled on.

"I just need relief now," Kate said. "I need to turn the page."

Jon described his relationship with Kate as "a total breakdown of everything."

"Jon & Kate" is TLC's most-watched series, drawing nearly 10 million viewers for its season premiere recently. But with the couple's celebrity has come nonstop celebrity coverage, and scandal. There have been reports of infidelity by both Jon and Kate (accusations both of them deny).

Adding to the strain, Pennsylvania's Labor Department opened an investigation into whether the show's production is complying with state child labor laws. TLC has said it "fully complies" with state laws and regulations.

Looking ahead, Kate said, "I don't really want to be alone. I don't want to do this alone."

But she described the split as "the next chapter." And while she and Jon have spoken angrily about the pressure on their marriage from unsought fame and press attention, she conceded, "I believe that it's a chapter that probably would have played out had the world been watching, or not."

One thing the couple could agree on: "Jon & Kate Plus 8" will continue.

"We interview separately, we'll film different things," Jon explained. "Me and the kids, her and the kids."

"How does the show go on?" said Kate. "The show MUST go on!"

Books by Martin Luther King Jr. to be republished

ATLANTA (AP)—Four books that have been long out of print by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. will be published again under a deal with Beacon Press brokered by King's youngest son.

In a statement, Dexter King called the deal "an historic partnership."

"Beacon Press will be a dedicated public outlet for his work and will help bring his urgently needed teachings of nonviolence and human dignity, and his dream of freedom and equality to a new global audience," said Dexter King, chairman of his father's estate.

Beacon, a department of the Unitarian Universalist Association, publishes books on social justice, human rights and racial equality. Among the authors it has published are James Baldwin, Derrick Bell, Cornel West, Howard Thurman, Marian Wright Edelman and Roger Wilkins.

On Jan. 18, 2010—the federal holiday observing what would have been King's 80th birthday—the Boston-based publisher will release new editions of several of King's most important works, which have been unavailable for nearly two decades, including:

- "Stride Toward Freedom," first published in 1958, King's memoir of the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955 and 1956;
- "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?," first published in 1967, King's last book and an analysis of the state of American race relations and the movement after a decade of U.S. civil rights struggles;
- "Trumpet of Conscience," first published in 1968, containing five lectures King gave in 1967;
- "Strength to Love," first published in 1963, a volume of his most well-known homilies and the book in the civil rights leader's briefcase when he was killed on April 4, 1968.

Under the agreement—called "The King Legacy"—Beacon will also compile King's writings, sermons, lectures and prayers into new editions with introductions by leading scholars. The financial details of the deal were not disclosed.

'Transformers,' 'Potter' aim to revive box office

DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

AP
In this film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, Megan Fox, left, and Shia LaBeouf are shown in a scene from "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen."

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," opening Wednesday, and "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," coming in mid-July, are this year's surefire Hollywood blockbusters.

Last year's smash hit, "The Dark Knight," was the biggest box-office behemoth in more than a decade.

If history holds true, the combination of "Transformers" and "Harry Potter" should more than match the whopping $533.3 million haul of last year's "The Dark Knight" and keep the movie business on track to beat last year's summer record revenue of $4.2 billion.

While ticket sales have been brisk this season, Hollywood fell into a bit of a slump this month, when receipts three weekends in a row fell short of business over the same periods last year.

Nearing the halfway mark of the season, revenues are at $1.7 billion, a fraction ahead of summer 2008's, according to Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

But at this point a year ago, the debut of "The Dark Knight" was still a month away. The film was a phenomenon, giving Hollywood a stellar second wind at a point in summer when the box office often starts to trickle off.

Things trailed off this month, significantly eroding the record box-office pace studios have been maintaining for the entire year.

"June gloom definitely hit the box office, but I think things are going to turn around," Dergarabedian said. "We've got that one-two punch of 'Transformers' and 'Harry Potter.'"

The first "Transformers" did $319 million domestically in summer 2007, while the "Harry Potter" tales typically come in near $300 million. If the latest installments match that, they will combine for a $600 million infusion into this summer's totals.

The first "Transformers" had a $70.5 million opening weekend, a big start for a tale based on children's toys and starring two relative unknowns at the time, Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox.

The sequel is expected to do far more business as an established franchise with hot stars.

"Shia and Megan have both become much bigger stars and personalities since the first movie," said Rob Moore, vice chairman for Paramount, which is releasing the DreamWorks production.

Anticipation for Paramount's "Transformers" is so high that it could lift that sequel into the $400 million realm, while Warner Bros. is opening "Half-Blood Prince" the same weekend it debuted "The Dark Knight," hoping lightning strikes again. "Harry Potter" fever is growing, with "Half-Blood Prince" the lead-in to the two-part big-screen adaptation of the final book in J.K. Rowling's fantasy series.

"I think summer is just starting in a big way this coming week," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution at Sony, which released "Angels & Demons" and has Katherine Heigl's romance "The Ugly Truth" and the Julia Childs tale "Julie and Julia" with Meryl Streep still to come.

Sandra Bullock's romantic comedy "The Proposal" did better business than expected this past weekend, giving the industry a lift on the eve of "Transformers."

"There's quite a number of big movies yet to come," said Mark Zoradi, president of the motion-picture group at Disney, which released "The Proposal" and scored a $200 million smash with the animated adventure "Up." ''I was convinced beforehand that this summer was going to be bigger than the last, and I remained convinced that it's going to be."

Fourth of July weekend brings the animated sequel "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" and the gangster saga "Public Enemies," starring Johnny Depp and Christian Bale.

The string of potential hits continues with "Bruno," ''Borat" creator Sacha Baron Cohen's new mock documentary; "G-Force," a family action comedy from blockbuster producer Jerry Bruckheimer; "Funny People," teaming Adam Sandler and Seth Rogen with comedy maestro Judd Apatow; "G.I. Joe," an action thriller based on the military toys; and "Inglourious Basterds," Quentin Tarantino's World War II epic starring Brad Pitt.

Before summer, Hollywood had been on a box-office tear, filling the typically slow winter and spring months with hits such as "Paul Blart: Mall Cop," ''Taken" and "Fast & Furious."

Revenues for the year had been up as much as 17.4 percent, according to box-office figures compiled by Hollywood.com. But for all the big summer hits of May, studios began losing ground to a stronger slate from a year ago.

For the year, revenues now are at $4.8 billion, up 10.4 percent from last year's.

While other studios did not want to tread too closely to the release date of "Transformers," Hollywood may have stuffed too many action flicks into May, when "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," ''Star Trek" and "Terminator Salvation" all opened within a few weeks. Meantime, June swooned, loaded with comedies and light on action until "Transformers."

"Star Trek," the year's biggest hit so far with $239.4 million domestically, landed in theaters just a week after "Wolverine," the two movies likely gobbling up some of each other's business.

"Those two movies went after the same audience. It sort of became gluttony at the buffet table," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution at 20th Century Fox, which released "Wolverine." ''You can only eat so much."

'Idol' rat pack: 10 finalists prepare for tour

AP
In this image released by Fox, the top ten finalists for season 8 of "American Idol," clockwise from top left, Michael Sarver, Scott MacIntyre, Allison Iraheta, Adam Lambert, Anoop Desai, Matt Giraud, Danny Gokey, Lil Rounds, Megan Joy, and Kris Allen are shown in Los Angeles on Wednesday, March 18, 2009.

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—In a small, unadorned studio far removed from cameras, spotlights and songs ending with an instant review, the top 10 "American Idol" finalists are getting ready for a nationwide tour.

They're working on the intricacies of a group performance of "Don't Stop Believin'," with Matt Giraud and Scott MacIntyre singing and playing at dual pianos and the other eight, slouching comfortably on leather couches, adding their voices from the sidelines.

With so much behind them, and so much ahead, they manage to come across as friends who've gotten together for nothing more than a casual jam session.

"I'm not feeling the backup vocals," Danny Gokey offers at one point, after Adam Lambert notes that a transition in the reworked song is sounding awkward.

"I'm open to suggestions. It's very much a collaborative effort," responds musical director Dave Kochanski.

It's also, at least this morning, a relaxed one. At one point, Gokey delivers a full-blast note and, adding his own color commentary, declares the "crowd is in shock and awe." Later, the former Milwaukee church music director playfully exhorts the room, "If God's been good to you, I want you to say yeah!"

Kris Allen, the mellow Conway, Ark., contestant who came out on top, said he expects the tour that begins July 5 in Oregon to be a welcome contrast to the weekly show experience.

"The energy is going to be better on tour," Allen said, and it will be easier to loosen up and feed off the crowd's energy. And, he added, "no one's judging you."

"I'll be with my friends, have a good time. I'm really excited," he said.

There will be family as well as pals. Allison Iraheta, who at 17 must have an adult accompanying her, can count on her mother or sister being on hand. Lil Rounds of Memphis, Tenn., expects her husband and three children in visit her in a few cities. Same with Allen's wife, Katy, although "she's not following me around," he said.

At least three of the finalists will have more than the tour to think about: Allen, Iraheta and runner-up Lambert already have deals for albums.

How will Lambert, for one, manage to record and tour?

"You tell me," he responds, with an easy grin. "We're doing a lot of great preliminary work on the album right now. ... It's just double-duty, you know, multitasking."

He's co-writing material for the CD and is enthusiastic about working with RedOne, who's produced hits for Lady Gaga and Sean Kingston, as well as Greg Wells (his artist list includes Katy Perry, who played favorites on "Idol" by wearing a cape emblazoned with Lambert's name) and Ryan Tedder.

Lambert, whose powerful voice and glam style made him both an object of admiration and mystery during the Fox TV singing contest ("I know who I am" was the mantra he repeated to questions about his sexuality), said in a Rolling Stone cover story that he's gay.

During a break from the tour rehearsal, Lambert said although "I wear myself on my sleeve," he wanted to keep part of his life private as he introduced himself to the "Idol" audience.

"It's weird when you're all of a sudden thrust into the public spotlight. It's a hard road to navigate," he said, and "you have to protect certain parts of yourself and see how it's going to play out. ... I really wanted people to identify with my entertainment before my personal life. I wanted people to enjoy my performances and get on board."

"Now that some people have, I feel more free to become personal," he said.

Iraheta, who calls her "Slow Ride" duet with Lambert a personal "highlight" of the contest, said the pair, both of Los Angeles, have been talking about recording a song together. "I'm definitely down for that ... that would be so much fun," Iraheta said with a grin.

She's also upbeat about something else: Getting rid of her braces.

"There's just one sucker, a tooth in the middle, that just doesn't want to get straight," she says. "But I'm just tired of the braces so I'm probably gonna get them out before we hit the first venue."

Perez Hilton says he was punched by Peas' manager

TORONTO (AP)—Police have charged the tour manager of the Black Eyed Peas with assault after he allegedly punched celebrity blogger Perez Hilton outside a Toronto nightclub. Hilton said he got into an argument with band members Fergie and will.i.am at the Cobra nightclub early Monday morning and was punched outside by Polo Molina, the band's tour manager. They were at the club following a Sunday night video awards show.

Molina turned himself in and has been charged with assaulting Hilton, Toronto Police Constable Tony Vella said. Molina is due in court Aug. 5.

Hilton, whose real name is Mario Lavandeira, complained about the incident on the microblogging site Twitter. He tweeted at 4 a.m.: "I am bleeding. Please, I need to file a police report. No joke."

AP

In this image released by Perez Hilton, celebrity blogger Perez Hilton is shown with an injury beneath his eye, Monday, June 22, 2009, in Toronto.

Hilton, who is openly gay, said in interview with The Associated Press that he called will.i.am a "faggot," a gay slur, inside the club after the musician told the blogger not to write about his band on his Web site.

"He was like 'You need to respect me.' He was in my face. He was obviously trying to intimidate me and scare me," Hilton said. "I was like 'I don't need to respect you. I don't respect you and I did say this, and I knew that it would be the worst thing I could possibly say to him because he was acting the way he was. I said 'You know what, I don't respect you and you're gay and stop being such a faggot.'" Will.i.am said in a video posting on dipdive.com that he came to Hilton with respect and was called a "faggot."

Hilton, who was at the club with Lady Gaga, said he then left the club and was punched from behind. The pop stars and the blogger were among celebrities in Toronto for the MuchMusic Video Awards on Sunday night.

A spokeswoman for the Black Eyed Peas declined comment.

Megan Fox dismisses comparisons to Angelina Jolie

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Megan Fox dismisses comparisons between her and Angelina Jolie as the product of a lazy media.

The two actresses are both brunettes with tattoos who are known for their candor—and that has been enough for some to proclaim Fox the heir apparent to Jolie's crown. Fox says the parallels are the product of a lack of media creativity, but adds, "you live with it."

The 23-year-old Fox stars with Shia (SHY'-uh) LaBeouf (lah-BUFF') in the new film "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen." She says she and the actor, who were paired in the first "Transformers" movie, enjoy a brother-sister relationship.

LeBeouf says rumors the two are dating are just that. He described himself as a "red-blooded 23-year-old," but said the connection with Fox is strictly professional.

AP

Actress Megan Fox arrives to the premiere of "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" on Monday, June 22, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Ryan O'Neal says he plans to marry Farrah Fawcett

NEW YORK (AP)—Ryan O'Neal says he plans to marry Farrah Fawcett, who is struggling to overcome cancer. The 68-year-old actor says in an interview with Barbara Walters for ABC's "20/20" that he asked his longtime companion to marry him and "she's agreed." O'Neal says they will tie the knot "as soon as she can say yes."

Walters' interview with O'Neal airs Friday.

Fawcett was diagnosed in 2006 with anal cancer that has spread to her liver. The "Charlie's Angels" star and O'Neal have a 24-year-old son, Redmond.

O'Neal says the 62-year-old actress is "fighting for her life," but despite her declining health, they will "absolutely" get married.

AP

In this March 5, 1989 file photo, actors Ryan O'Neal, left, and Farrah Fawcett are shown at the premiere of the film. "Chances Are," in New York.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Keillor celebrates 'Prairie Home' 35th anniversary

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Humorist Garrison Keillor is returning to Lake Wobegon to celebrate the 35th anniversary of his popular "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show. Keillor has added a Fourth of July broadcast of his show from Avon the central Minnesota town that helped inspire Lake Wobegon, his fictional hometown. Avon is on the Lake Wobegon Trail, a 46-mile hike-and-bike pathway in Stearns County, which Keillor says "is about as close to Lake Wobegon as you can get." "A Prairie Home Companion" debuted on July 6, 1974, at Macalester College in St. Paul. The show is now heard on nearly 600 public radio stations nationwide and every week more than 4.3 million people listen to his tales about life in Lake Wobegon.

McConaughey and girlfriend expecting second child

NEW YORK (AP)—Matthew McConaughey (Mih-KAH'-nih-hay) and his girlfriend, Camila Alves (kuh-MEE'-luh AHL'-vehs), are expecting another baby. McConaughey (Mih-KAH'-nih-hay) announced the news in a posting on his Web site on Father's Day. The 39-year-old actor and Alves (AHL'-vehs) have an 11-month-old son, Levi. Writes McConaughey (Mih-KAH'-nih-hay) in the posting: "Camila and I are expecting our second child, bringing more life into the world, making more to live for. The future looks bright as the family grows..."

'Memphis' musical coming to Broadway in October

NEW YORK (AP)—The musical "Memphis" is coming to Broadway. It will open Oct. 19 at the Shubert Theatre, following four weeks of previews. It has played in Seattle and San Diego. The musical, based on a concept by George W. George, follows a young white DJ in 1950s segregated Tennessee. "Memphis" features music by Bon Jovi keyboardist David Bryan.

Pitt, Soderbergh's 'Moneyball' pulled from lineup

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Brad Pitt and Steven Soderbergh's baseball tale "Moneyball" has been benched just days before the start of shooting. Sony pulled the plug late last week after Soderbergh turned in a rewritten script substantially different than an earlier draft by screenwriter Steven Zaillian (ZAY'-lee-uhn). That's according to a source close to the production who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record. The source says Sony gave Soderbergh the opportunity to set the project up at a different studio. Soderbergh's manager declined to comment. Production had been scheduled to start this week. The script is based on Michael Lewis' book "Moneyball," about Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane.

Wife dreams of dressing husband in lacy lingerie

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently watched a comedy that featured men cross-dressing. Ever since, I have had a burning desire to have my husband wear sexy lingerie and makeup.

There is nothing effeminate about him, but I can't get this out of my head. I bought him a lacy bra and panty set, garter belt and stockings, but I haven't had the nerve to ask him to wear them. Am I crazy? Should I try to forget this?

BURNING DESIRE IN NAHANT, MASS.

DEAR BURNING: Human sexuality is complicated. There are many women who help their husbands cross-dress, however it is my understanding that the initiator is usually the man. I don't think you are crazy, nor do I think you should "forget" something that you describe as a "burning desire." What I do think you should do is have a frank discussion with your husband and find out how open-minded he is on the subject.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with "John" for the past seven years. I live down south, while John lives up north. John is 76 and does not plan to retire, even though he doesn't have to work. I am 65 and need to work.

Is it possible for this long-distance relationship to survive? Part of me wishes we would end it so we could start over with someone who lives in the same city. I'm tired of living this way, but cannot seem to make the break. What should I do?

SOUTHERN BELLE

DEAR SOUTHERN BELLE: If you are torn between your head and your heart, please listen to the part of you that thinks. Because this has been going on for seven years, it's clear that the status quo is enough for John. Because you need more than that, explain it to him, and if the two of you can't figure out a workable solution, it's time for you to find someone who can fulfill your needs.

DEAR ABBY: Our family, consisting of our three children, their spouses, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren, have occasional gatherings to celebrate special events. My husband's 90th birthday is this summer, and the immediate family will come here, some from faraway locations.

My daughter-in-law, "Janie," who lives 2,000 miles away, has felt for years that her children from previous marriages (who do not know any of us) should be included at these events. They live within 100 miles of our home and could attend if invited. Our relationship with Janie has been generally cordial and affectionate. She will be visiting her children at their homes the week of the birthday. If we exclude her kids from our celebration, she will feel insulted and resentful.

How obligated should we feel to bow to Janie's demands and include four additional adults and a young child to our party? My husband becomes upset and confused by large groups and noisy children.

CORNERED ON THE EASTERN SHORE

DEAR CORNERED: Your husband's comfort and sense of well-being must come first. If he becomes agitated by large groups and noisy children, you must explain to Janie that no "strangers" can be introduced into the mix and why. Do not allow anyone to lay a guilt trip on you for advocating for him. When Janie sees your husband, I am sure she will understand.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

"CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM! CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM!" THAT'S ALL I EVER HEAR!
IT'S MY ROOM, RIGHT?!? IF I DON'T MIND THE MESS, WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF ANYONE ELSE?! THIS IS TYRANNY! I HATE CLEANING MY ROOM!
6/24
IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME ALL DAY TO DO THIS! OOH, THIS MAKES ME MAD! A WHOLE DAY SHOT! WASTED! DOWN THE DRAIN! GONE!
AARGH!
ARE YOU KIDDING? HOW COULD THIS POSSIBLY TAKE ALL DAY?
HECK, IT'LL BE ANOTHER HOUR BEFORE I'M EVEN THROUGH GRIPING.
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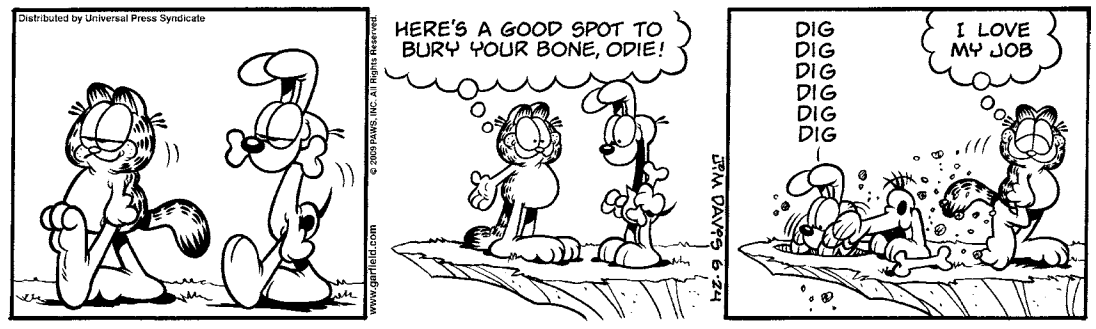
Garfield®

By Jim Davis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HERE'S A GOOD SPOT TO BURY YOUR BONE, ODIE!
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I LOVE MY JOB
JIM DAVIS 6-24

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WOULD YOU EVER WEAR A SPEEDO?
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WHY NOT? EUROPEAN MEN DO.
YEAH, WELL, A LOT OF EUROPEAN MEN ALSO WEAR DARK SOCKS WITH SANDALS.
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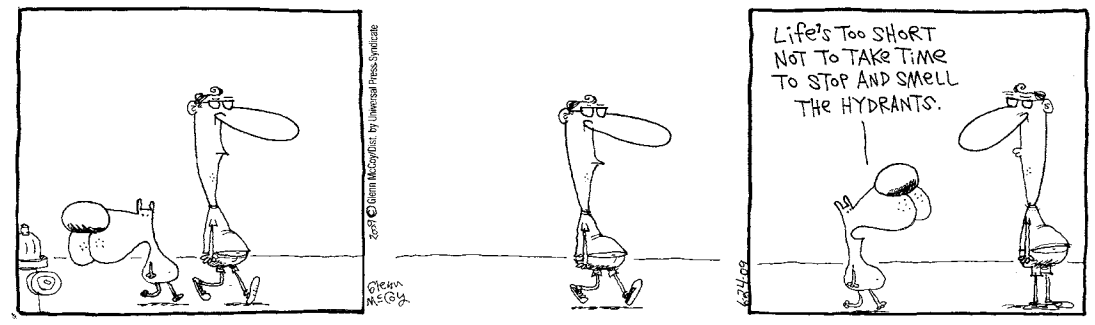
OOH. THAT'S A GOOD LOOK FOR YOU: A SPEEDO WITH DARK SOCKS AND SANDALS.
SURE. WHEN'S YOUR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION, AGAIN?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

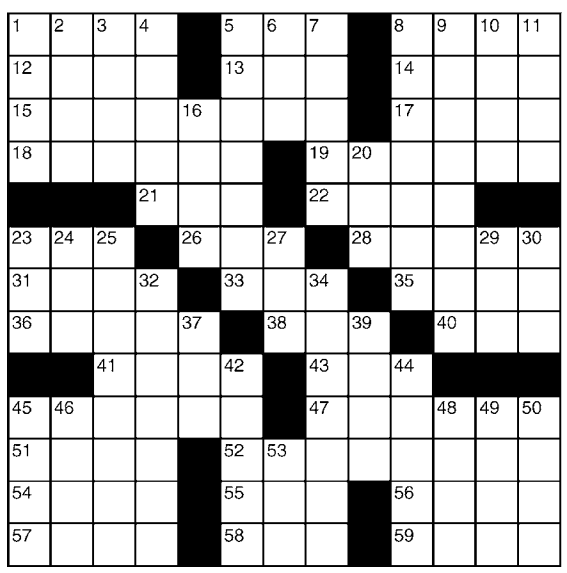
ACROSS
1 Catchall abbr.
5 Felon's flight
8 Basilica section
12 Initial chip
13 Actress Larter
14 Converse
15 Rogue
17 Undecided
18 Piercing
19 Anatomical rupture
21 Copper head?
22 Genealogy chart
23 Relative of a peke
26 Bonfire residue
28 TV's Gomez Addams
31 Use a rotary phone
33 Round Table address
35 Benefit
36 Extraterrestrial
38 Encountered
40 Obtain
41 Manicure site
43 23-Across' place, often
45 Pamper
47 See 34-Down
51 Shrek is one
52 Potpourri
54 Winged
55 Rhyming honor
56 Additionally
57 Stamina (Sl.)
58 Head movement
59 Not so much

DOWN
1 Church service
2 Part of the foot?
3 Celebrity
4 "As You Like It" role
5 Anarchic
6 Chicken-king link
7 Has potential
8 Ingenue, e.g.
9 Repeated attempts to contact
10 Ganges garment
11 Sicilian volcano
16 Goya's "Duchess of —"
20 Historic time
23 Palm Pilot, e.g.
24 Lubricate
25 Principal street
27 That guy
29 Mamie's man
30 Trawler need
32 Guides
34 Calm
37 Zero
39 London gallery
42 Lousy car
44 Bicycle part
45 Brat's stocking stuffer
46 Look lasciviously
48 Competent
49 Back talk
50 Ids' counterparts
53 Altar affirmative

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	A	Y	O	■	A	L	A	■	B	A	B	A
O	R	A	L	■	V	E	T	■	A	F	A	R
W	I	L	D	F	O	W	L	■	T	R	I	G
N	A	E	■	R	I	D	■	P	H	O	T	O
■	■	■	B	I	D	■	J	E	T	■	■	■
V	A	D	U	Z	■	W	O	N	O	V	E	R
A	H	O	Y	■	C	A	T	■	W	E	V	E
L	A	Z	A	R	U	S	■	H	E	X	E	D
■	■	■	V	I	P	■	T	I	L	■	■	■
C	A	R	O	M	■	W	I	G	■	P	S	I
A	N	E	W	■	N	I	G	H	T	O	W	L
N	O	D	E	■	A	S	H	■	U	R	A	L
E	N	O	L	■	B	E	T	■	B	E	G	S

Yesterday's answer 6-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joe Penny, 53; Jeff Beck, 65; Mick Fleetwood, 67; Michele Lee, 67

Happy Birthday: You are heading into a time of change. Embrace new surroundings and activities with open arms. You can stabilize your life by getting back on track financially, emotionally and physically. Don't give up on your dreams -- incorporate them into your plans and you will achieve the happiness and satisfaction you desire. Your numbers are 3, 9, 13, 21, 25, 36, 43

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Expect someone to suggest things that you don't want. Weigh the pros and cons and suggest an alternative that might work better for everyone. Don't put up a fuss or it will work against you in the end. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: You'll be able to please everyone, including yourself, if you make some changes at home that will give everyone a place to do his or her own thing. Love is growing on all levels between you and the people in your life who count most. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Don't let anyone bully you into parting with your cash. Instead of avoiding someone you have a problem with, confront him or her and you will get satisfying results. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Take a lighter view of what's going on around you. Meddling will only lead to double trouble, so maintain an impartial attitude and spare yourself the melodrama. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Jump at any chance you get to make some extra cash. An interesting proposal will get you thinking about what you can do to change your current position both personally and professionally. Let your emotions lead the way. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: It's time to either pamper yourself or take a little trip. A seminar, conference or just getting together with like-minded people will do you good and help you clear your head. Favors will be granted. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: You can get a lot done if you work quietly at home where no one will disturb you. A chance to open up communication with someone from your past will prove to be interesting. Networking in the evening hours will lead to profits. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Keep your thoughts to yourself and don't share information that you are not positive is true. Don't let someone's philosophy entice you to make personal changes. You have to live by your rules not someone else's. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Get involved in something that stimulates you and you will start to make friends who can contribute to your lifestyle in a positive way. Talk openly about your objectives and someone who wants a piece of your action for a price you cannot refuse will make an offer. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Protect what you have or someone will try to take a piece of it. Once you discover who is on your side and who isn't, you will be able to make some interesting financial moves and gains. Your ability to outmaneuver will send a very clear-cut message. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: You'll have to work hard to get someone to agree with you but, once you have the main problem out of the way, the rest will be easy. A money situation will leave you feeling cheated but, before you try to collect, make sure you have your facts straight. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Do your thing and make a big splash so that everyone is aware that you are doing something creatively exciting. The more promotion you have, the better your chance will be of gaining interest and support in what you are doing. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are witty, charming and responsible and that leads you to popularity and leadership. You are inquisitive and curious.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6	3				
			9		8	4		
		1					8	
	4		2					1
8					7			4
6		7	5	1				3
9	5		8				6	
		6				5		
		8	4	6	5	2	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Monday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	9	5	6	2	7	3	4
4	2	5	9	7	3	6	1	8
6	7	3	4	8	1	5	2	9
2	6	4	7	1	8	3	9	5
1	3	7	2	5	9	4	8	6
9	5	8	6	3	4	2	7	1
3	9	6	8	2	5	1	4	7
5	8	2	1	4	7	9	6	3
7	4	1	3	9	6	8	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JOURNALISM SCHOOLS — Solution: 9 letters

S	O	H	L	Y	C	I	M	E	D	A	C	A	E	I
P	S	I	D	E	I	A	S	I	T	C	N	L	N	N
R	F	U	D	M	G	R	V	T	S	N	I	T	Y	V
E	T	I	P	A	P	E	R	T	O	F	E	P	R	E
S	T	A	Z	M	R	V	S	U	O	R	S	V	O	S
S	C	I	V	S	A	O	N	R	V	E	Y	O	E	T
T	N	A	E	I	P	C	P	I	U	P	S	S	H	I
E	R	R	K	S	E	D	E	L	G	O	L	B	T	G
N	T	T	H	R	N	W	A	T	U	R	C	O	A	A
I	A	I	D	O	I	V	E	R	N	T	Ⓢ	J	I	T
L	P	C	E	N	A	S	C	R	W	E	H	Ⓦ	D	I
D	R	L	G	O	R	E	S	N	S	R	D	E	Ⓔ	O
A	I	E	R	H	T	T	R	U	T	H	I	U	M	Ⓝ
E	N	S	E	N	I	L	D	A	E	H	D	T	T	E
D	T	S	E	T	A	N	A	L	Y	S	I	S	E	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Phonetic

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $2 postage for the first book order, $1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at unipuzzles.com.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-419
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
JOHN KITALONG SIKYANG and MERCEDES JONES CASTRO	:	
Defendants.	:	

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 22, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 045 A 12, situated in As Matuis, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 944 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 002 dated July 12, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1670, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 10, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 21st day of May, 2009:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Saipan Tribune

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235-7835

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0476
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
The Estate of SOLEDAD K. SOMORANG, Deceased, and SUSAN K. SOMORANG,	:	
Defendants.	:	

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 5, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 1 548, situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 885 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 2084 82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 14232 on May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 10, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 21st day of May, 2009:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Help is on the way

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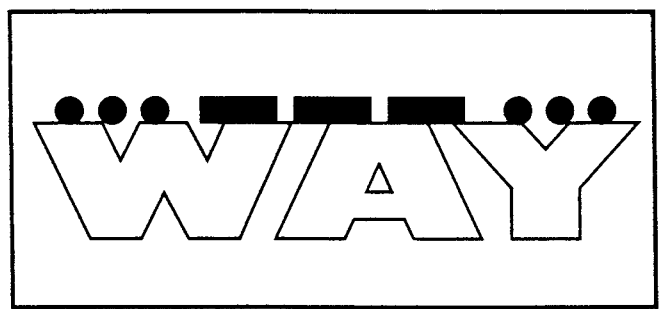
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

LAND FOR SALE

1. **Subject Property.** Real property is situated in Capitol Hill, Saipan known as Lot No. 018 E 17, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 018 E 01, the original of which was recorded on May 01, 1986 as Document no. 86-0878 at Commonwealth Recorder's SAipan. Said property contains an area of 741 square meters, more or less.

2. **Price.** The property will be sold to the highest bidder.

3. **Condition of Property.** As is.

4. **Warranties and Covenants.** The sale shall be without warranties of any kind, and it is the buyer's responsibility to verify title of the property.

5. **Conduct of Sale.** The sale will be held with reserve, which may or may not be disclosed to the bidders. Furthermore, the undersigned reserves the right to withdraw the property listed for sale at any time before the bid is accepted, or to reject any or all bids for any reason whatsoever. Furthermore, the sale shall be subject to the approval of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

6. **Right of Redemption.** Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4541, the property sold in this sale may be redeemed at any time, within 12 months after the date of sale, and in accordance with 2 CMC § 4542.

7. **Contact Information.** Please submit written offers to Frances C. Quichocho, at the Law Offices of Ramon K. Quichocho, LLC, on the 2nd Floor, Sign Arts Building, San Jose, P.O. Box 505621, Saipan, MP 96950, by no later than July 9, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact the undersigned at 670.234.8946.

/s/ Ramon K. Quichocho

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

New look for Centre Court, new look for Federer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Roger Federer thought Centre Court looked smashing, what with its new retractable roof at the ready, all white fabric and steel trusses.

The fans at Wimbledon thought Federer looked smashing, too, what with his new collar-up, military-style jacket and formfitting tuxedo vest, all white with gold trim.

As for Federer's play Monday at the All England Club? Well, for a few minutes, that did not look quite so good. But only for a few minutes. After trailing by a break in the first set of his first match since winning the French Open to complete a career Grand Slam, Federer righted himself and beat Yen-hsun Lu of Taiwan 7-5, 6-3, 6-2 to take the first step toward a record-breaking 15th major championship overall.

"Solid performance," Federer said. "It's funny: I actually didn't even think about it—I didn't have a grass-court match yet this year. It's something I completely forgot about."

Day 1 at Wimbledon featured only one upset of any significance: 17th-seeded James Blake of the United States lost in straight sets to 50th-ranked Andreas Seppi of Italy. And even that wasn't all that shocking, considering that Blake has now lost three Grand Slam matches in a row. Otherwise, No. 21 Feliciano Lopez was beaten by Karol Beck 10-8 in the fifth set, while two seeded women lost, No. 21 Patty Schnyder and No. 23 Aleksandra Wozniak.

Past Wimbledon champions Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova reached the second round, as did No. 4 Novak Djokovic, No. 7 Fernando Verdasco, No. 9 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and No. 13 Robin Soderling, the runner-up to Federer at Roland Garros this month.

That recent up-close look at Federer is still sharp in Soderling's mind.

"He's so complete. He knows every shot. Serves well, forehand, backhand well, volleys well, moves well," Soderling said after eliminating Gilles Muller of Luxembourg 6-7 (4), 7-5, 6-1, 6-2. "You know, that's why he's No. 1. That's why, to me, he's the best player in history."

Actually, Federer is No. 2 in the rankings and the Wimbledon seedings. That's in part because the last time he played on grass, 50 weeks ago, Federer lost to Rafael Nadal in the 2008 Wimbledon final, a 4-hour, 48-minute affair that, thanks to rain delays, finished after 9 p.m. and in near-darkness.

Such days are forever consigned to history around these parts, although now that Wimbledon is equipped with a roof, of course, there was not a drop of rain Monday—sort of akin to when you remember to leave the house carrying an umbrella and clouds give way to sun.

Nadal managed to end Federer's 40-match winning streak at Wimbledon and record 65-match run on grass and so the Spaniard, as reigning champion, would have been accorded the honor of playing the opening Centre Court match this year. Except that Nadal withdrew from the tournament Friday, citing sore knees, and for the first time since 1973, the prior year's runner-up—Federer—got things started.

This was Federer's sixth chance to be first to stride onto the most hallowed lawn in tennis; he won Wimbledon five times, from 2003-07.

"It's a very privileged spot, Monday, 1 p.m.," Federer said. "I know that Rafa deserves it, obviously, more than I do this year. But somebody had to do it, so I'm very happy that they chose me, of course. Yeah, gets your heart beating, that's for sure."

AP

Roger Federer of Switzerland returns the ball to Lu Yen-Hsun of Chinese Taipei during their round one tennis match on centre court at Wimbledon, Monday, June 22, 2009.

Federer won the first nine points on his serve, but he failed to convert four break points in the match's fourth game, then dumped a backhand into the net to get broken and fall behind 3-2.

"I knew the danger today," Federer said. "He's beaten good players."

Lu's biggest moment probably was his victory over Andy Murray at the Beijing Olympics, but he couldn't sustain his brief bit of strong play Monday. Federer broke right back, then took the opening set when Lu—who is ranked 65th and is 6-15 in Grand Slam matches—flubbed an easy volley, then missed a backhand.

Federer, meanwhile, really got going, finishing with 42 winners and only 10 unforced errors. He took time to check out the changes to an arena built in 1922: The new roof, when not in use, is bunched up in two halves atop both ends of the court, a white intrusion on all the green at Centre Court—the grass, of course, but also the seats, walls, scoreboards, overhangs, even the chair umpire's stand.

"I guess the moment will come that I'll play indoors here," Federer said. "I saw the structure for the first time. ... It looks good, too."

He's a fan of fashion—Vogue editor in chief Anna Wintour is a pal—and Federer showed up for Monday's appointment in a getup that he called "a little bit more modern look," topped by a jacket replete with epaulettes, pockets on the sleeve and a golden zipper. When he removed it after the coin toss, revealing his vest, some spectators at this most genteel of sites whistled and catcalled.

The vest eventually came off, too, as did the long white trousers he wore for warmups. There were touches of gold everywhere, including the "RF" on the front of his jacket and the shading on the heels of his sneakers.

"I hope," he said, "people like it."

Williams, the 2002-03 champion and runner-up to her sister Venus a year ago, made her own fashion statement, wearing a trenchcoat onto Centre Court.

"I just thought it was going to rain," Williams said after defeating 154th-ranked qualifier Neuza Silva of Portugal 6-1, 7-5. "I thought, 'Well, if it rains, then I'll still play.'"

No wet weather arrived, though, and the first closing of Wimbledon's roof will wait for another day.

Clippers remain intent on keeping No. 1 draft pick

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Clippers remain intent on keeping the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft, and they're expected to make Oklahoma's Blake Griffin the top selection.

"The pick's not going anywhere," assistant general manager Neil Olshey said Monday.

Coach and general manager Mike Dunleavy said he hasn't spoken to anyone seriously about trading the pick in more than two weeks. He and Olshey haven't ruled out the possibility of acquiring another pick on or before Thursday's draft.

"We're going to try to jump into the draft," Olshey said. "We've proven in the last year or so, we're not afraid to make transactions. Some have worked, some haven't. But we've been as active as any team in the league and we're going to continue to do that straight through Thursday night."

Dunleavy was so excited about the news that his team had won last month's draft lottery that he told a reporter by phone that the Clippers would be taking Griffin.

Dunleavy was in Barcelona, Spain, when he made the announcement that violated the league's policy forbidding teams from stating whom they plan on selecting before the draft.

So the Clippers got scolded for saying what they figured was going to be a foregone conclusion no matter what team held the No. 1 pick.

"We jumped the gun with our excitement, but with the luck we've had the last couple of years with injuries and everything else, it's gone the wrong way so to have that kind of thing happen on draft night got everybody excited," Olshey said.

"It was four in the morning in Spain when Coach made the comment so, I think if given a little more thought, we would've played our cards more close to the vest."

The Clippers finished 19-63 last season.

During the NBA finals, the Clippers showcased Griffin during an open workout for media, season ticket holders and sponsors. The 6-foot-10 center averaged 22.7 points and 14.4 rebounds as a sophomore for the Sooners.

To improve his stamina and strength, Griffin has been working out with a trainer known for putting clients through grueling eight-hour sessions.

Knicks hoping to land lead point guard in upcoming NBA *draft*

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—Mike D'Antoni's system is in place. The New York Knicks still need help running it.

Donnie Walsh thinks his team can find it in this draft.

There will be plenty of point guards available Thursday night, and the Knicks could take one of them when their turn comes up at No. 8.

Ricky Rubio will likely be gone by then, but Stephen Curry, Jrue Holiday, Jonny Flynn, Ty Lawson and Brandon Jennings are among the players who could still be available.

And if Walsh goes for a playmaker, he knows the kind he's looking for.

"I think a guy that can play a fast tempo and I'd like a guy that can defend, too," the Knicks president said Monday. "Somebody who can play a fast tempo, because that's what we want to play."

D'Antoni brought his uptempo offense to New York last year, but his team was prone to the types of scoring droughts that he rarely had to worry about in Phoenix. Of course, the Suns had one of basketball's premier point guards in Steve Nash, who won a pair of MVP awards leading the fast break in the desert.

Chris Duhon played well in the early part of last season, but faded in the second half after being overworked. The Knicks didn't really have a backup for him, with Stephon Marbury never playing before he and the Knicks parted ways, and Mardy Collins traded in November.

Holiday was brought in for a second workout Monday and believes he would be the best fit if the Knicks take the point guard route.

"I have that advantage of being taller than everybody and bigger and being a big point guard, just as quick, just as fast, so I have more vision," the 6-foot-4 UCLA freshman said. "I could see over the top, I can get my shot off easier."

Point guard is hardly the only need on a team that went 32-50 last season, and Walsh won't say what direction he plans to go with his second straight lottery pick. Nor can he guarantee the player will be an immediate contributor.

New York took Danilo Gallinari with the No. 6 selection last year. The forward from Italy showed flashes when he was on the court, but was limited to only 28 games because of a back injury that eventually required surgery.

The Knicks still believe Gallinari will be a quality NBA player, and Walsh insists he can find one this year.

"Lately the draft is not something you can grade the next day," Walsh said. "You've got to wait, see how these guys do."

Walsh predicted 10 or 11 point guards could go in the first round. Rubio, the teenager who played on Spain's silver medal-winning team in the Olympics, is expected to be the first one taken, likely somewhere in the top four picks.

But Walsh praised the athleticism of Syracuse's Flynn and the shooting of Davidson star Curry, so he knows he'll find something he likes when it's his turn.

He just doesn't know who it will be.

The Los Angeles Clippers have said they plan to take Oklahoma forward Blake Griffin with the top pick, but nothing is certain once it gets to Memphis at No. 2.

"After that, all the way down past us you have no idea who's picking who and I think it's to a degree because there is parity," Walsh said. "There's also at this point, most teams got a guy they want to take and they don't want anyone else to kind of figure it out."

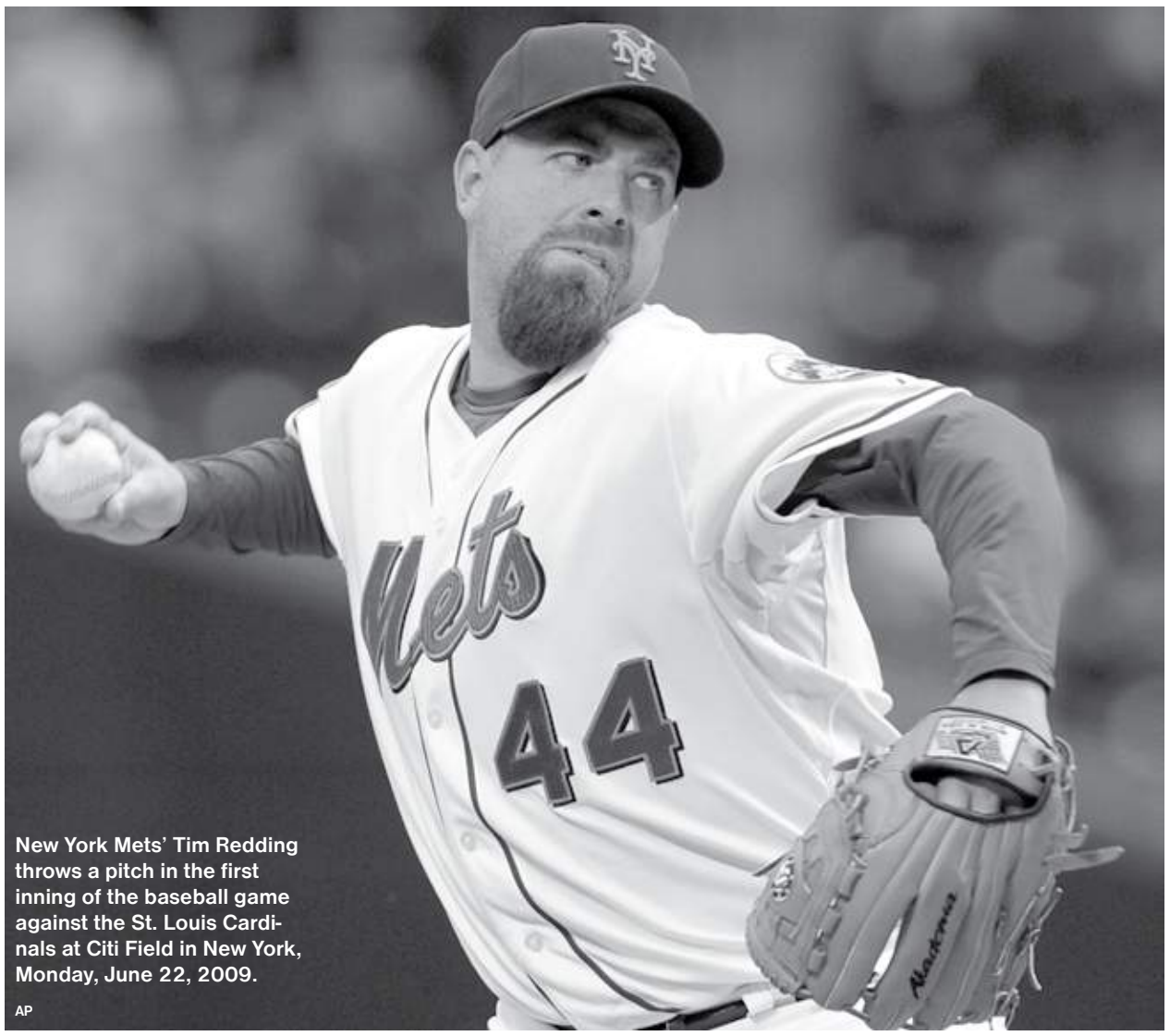
Walsh added he is aware there are players he likes who won't be available, so he is prepared for various scenarios. And he sees plenty of talent in this draft, even though it's been considered weak beyond Griffin.

"I think there are good players in the draft, so in that sense I regard it as good," Walsh said. "There's going to be good players where we are, so in that sense I think it's a good draft. You know you have to wait two or three years to find out how really good was it."

Ailing Mets slow Pujols, beat Cardinals

NEW YORK (AP)—Tim Redding pitched into the eighth inning for his first win with the Mets and substitute setup man Brian Stokes got Albert Pujols to ground into a crucial double play, leading New York past the St. Louis Cardinals 6-4 on Monday night.

Daniel Murphy homered and Omir Santos went 4 for 4 in an uplifting victory for the Mets, hours after they received another dose of disheartening news. All-Star center fielder Carlos Beltran went on the 15-day disabled list with a bone bruise on his right knee, a huge blow to a team already decimated by key injuries.



New York Mets' Tim Redding throws a pitch in the first inning of the baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals at Citi Field in New York, Monday, June 22, 2009.

AP

Before the game, New York manager Jerry Manuel said he would keep a close eye on the spirit of his squad, also missing star shortstop Jose Reyes, slugging first baseman Carlos Delgado and three important pitchers.

But the Mets' makeshift lineup responded with 14 hits and the pitching staff held a streaking Pujols in check. Alex Cora had a pair of RBI singles and Luis Castillo went 3 for 3 with an RBI double and a walk. Santos set a career high for hits, including a run-scoring single.

Making his seventh start for New York, Redding (1-2) was pulled after allowing a leadoff homer to No. 9 batter Brendan Ryan in the eighth, his first since Aug. 18, 2007.

Stokes came on to protect a 5-4 lead with one out and a runner on first. He got two strikes on Pujols, who hit a comebacker that Stokes turned into an inning-ending 1-6-3 double play.

Cora added an RBI single in the bottom half and Francisco Rodriguez worked a perfect ninth for his 19th save in 21 chances. The Mets won for the fourth time in 12 games.

Ryan Ludwick hit a two-run homer for the NL Central-leading Cardinals, who had won five of six. They were coming off a three-game sweep at Kansas City, where Pujols had three homers and 10 RBIs.

Leading the majors with 26 homers, including eight in the previous 10 games, Pujols went 1 for 4 with a double that preceded Ludwick's homer.

Murphy homered leading off the fifth against Todd Wellemeyer (6-7), who lasted 5 2-3 innings. He gave up five runs and 10 hits.

With John Maine and Oliver Perez close to coming off the disabled list, Redding could be bumped from the rotation as soon as this weekend. But he delivered a solid outing, throwing his first 15 pitches for strikes and allowing five hits.

Redding gave a tired Mets bullpen a much-needed rest. Stokes served as the eighth-inning setup man because Manuel was determined to give overworked relievers Bobby Parnell and Pedro Feliciano a rest.

Regular setup man J.J. Putz has been on the DL since June 5.

Braves 2, Cubs 0

At Atlanta, Javier Vazquez and three Atlanta relievers combined to shut out the Chicago Cubs.

In a makeup game caused by a June 4 rainout, the Braves won a series for the first time since completing a three-game sweep of Toronto on May 24. The Braves had gone 0-5-3 in their last eight series. Atlanta and Chicago split the first two games of the original series June 2-3.

Atlanta, which snapped a two-game slide, ended the Cubs' four-game winning streak.

Vazquez (5-6) gave up nine hits and two walks with five strikeouts. The right-hander's victory snapped a five-start streak in which he went 0-3 despite a 3.44 ERA.

Rafael Soriano, who gave up a single and a walk, struck out the side for his sixth save in seven chances.

Athletics 5, Giants 1

At Oakland, California, Bobby Crosby drove in three runs and rookie Trevor Cahill won his third straight decision as Oakland ended a five-game losing streak in the Bay Bridge Series with a victory over San Francisco.

Travis Ishikawa hit a solo home run in the second inning to put San Francisco ahead, but that's all the offense the Giants could muster. Orlando Cabrera doubled in a run in the fourth for Oakland to tie the game at 1-1, then Ryan Sweeney's RBI groundout two batters later gave the A's the lead.

Crosby hit a two-run double in the sixth and had an eighth-inning RBI groundout in Oakland's third win in four games.

Reliever Brad Ziegler pitched two perfect innings for his sixth save in seven chances.

Rockies 11, Angels 1

At Anaheim, California, Brad Hawpe celebrated his 30th birthday with a three-run homer and Seth Smith also went deep as Colorado beat the Angels for their 17th victory in 18 games and club-record ninth straight on the road.

The Angels tied a club record with six wild pitches—all with Jeff Napoli behind the plate. One was by Rafael Rodriguez in the seventh inning that allowed Troy Tulowitzki to score, one by Jason Bulger in the ninth that enabled Ian Stewart to come home. The Halos also had six wild pitches on April 13, 1991 at Minnesota.

Aaron Cook (7-3) allowed a run and three hits over seven innings and struck out four, helping send 30-year-old rookie Matt Palmer to his first loss of the season.

Fehr to retire as head of baseball players' union

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Fehr's quarter century in charge of the players' association was marked by a strike that canceled the World Series, record salaries and eventually 14 years of labor peace.

And to his detractors, it was marred by a go-slow approach to steroids.

Fehr, who turns 61 next month, said Monday he will leave the powerful union no later than the end of March. Fehr recommended that he be succeeded by union general counsel Michael Weiner, the No. 3 official and his longtime heir apparent. The move is subject to approval by the union's executive board and possible ratification by all players.

"I have no hesitancy in recommending to the players that he be given the opportunity to do this job," Fehr said.

The 47-year-old Weiner will lead negotiations for the next contract; the current labor agreement expires in December 2011.

Weiner and Steve Fehr, the union leader's brother, were the primary day-to-day negotiators of labor contracts in 2002 and 2006, baseball's first since 1970 that were achieved without a work stoppage.

"I think I have some sense of what I'm getting into," Weiner said.

As part of the succession plan, Weiner met Monday in the union's conference room with Fehr and the 92-year-old Marvin Miller, Fehr's predecessor.

"I think that he's a bright guy," Miller said in a telephone interview. "He's certainly not lacking in experience. He's got the background for it."

Players, concentrating on the economics, always backed Fehr.

"He'd talk like a lawyer, but in the same sense, he would also slow it down and explain it for us," Colorado's Todd Helton said.

Fehr headed negotiations for five labor contracts plus a divisive August 2002 drug agreement that was revised three times under congressional pressure. He decided he didn't want to negotiate the next labor contract in two years and wanted to give Weiner lead time.

"After a while, it wears you down," Fehr said. "I think it will be good for everybody."

Weiner has been with the players' association since September 1988 and has been its general counsel since February 2004. The No. 2 official is Gene Orza, the chief operating officer.

Orza praised Weiner for "enormous intelligence and incredible energy."

"I'm sure when Michael becomes executive director, and he should, we'll sit down and chat about the future, bearing in mind of course that I'm even older than Don is," said Orza, who has been with the union since 1984 and turns 63 in July.

A clerk to a federal judge who became the top lawyer to Miller in August 1977, Fehr took over as acting executive director on Dec. 8, 1983. That was 2 1/2 weeks after players fired Kenneth Moffett, the former mediator who had succeeded Miller following a 50-day strike in 1981.

"I never thought I was in Marvin's shadow. I did think that I had an extraordinary example to look up and try and follow," Fehr said.

Fehr led players through a two-day strike in 1985, then became executive director on a full-time basis the following January. His early years were defined by collusion. The union successfully charged management with conspiring against free agents following the 1985, 1986 and 1987 seasons in violation of the labor contract and settled the cases for $280 million.

"He's done so many good things for the game, even more so for the players," Mets reliever and union representative J.J. Putz said. "But you know, he said enough was enough, and that he was tired. He felt that it was best for the union that he step down, and put a new face on it, and just another outlook. He feels that Michael's definitely qualified. So that's what we have to look forward to in the next nine months."

Baseball's average salary was $289,000 when he took over 26 years ago, and it rose to $2.9 million by last year. Although players fended off management's repeated attempts to obtain a salary cap, he has been criticized by some for not agreeing to drug testing until 2002.

"If we, I, had known or understood what the circumstances were a little better, then perhaps we would have moved sooner," Fehr said.

Weiner, like Fehr, was critical of purported leaks of Alex Rodriguez and Sammy Sosa from the list of 104 names of players testing positive from the 2003 anonymous drug-testing survey. Federal prosecutors seized the list the following year before it could be destroyed, and the union sued for its return, litigation that is pending before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"It is regrettable that the names have been out there,"" Weiner said. "It is regrettable that the government showed no respect for the collective bargaining agreement and, according to several judges, the Constitution."

Fehr presided over a two-day strike in 1985 followed by a 32-day lockout in 1990 and a 7 1/2-month strike in 1994-95 that wiped out the World Series for the first time in 90 years. That stoppage ended only when the National Labor Relations Board, at the union's behest, obtained an injunction to restore work rules from U.S. District Judge Sonia Sotomayor, nominated last month by President Barack Obama for the Supreme Court.

"It was very satisfying at the end to say that the players got through it, they got through it one piece and regardless of what it took to get there, they got a very good agreement," said Fehr, who ranked the agreement that followed as his proudest achievement.

There has been labor peace since then, with the current collective bargaining agreement running through the 2011 season, and Fehr developed a business-like if not warm relationship with commissioner Bud Selig.

"Don has represented his constituency with passion, loyalty and great diligence," Selig said in a statement. "Although we have had our differences, I have always respected his role."

Fehr said he hopes bargaining will remaining peaceful, but he's confident the union would strike if necessary.

"Players will do it," he said. "I have very little doubt about that."

Three in a row for G4S, Fiesta, PTC win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Ferdie De La Torre, X-Terminators' Ding Luna, and Fiesta's Chris Mojar look up for the ball after X-Terminator's Mike Olaitiman releases his second free throw in the third quarter of their game in the Shirley's caging last Friday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

G4S avenged its first round loss to Advance X-Terminators after cruising to an 85-67 victory in their second round meeting in the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

G4S bowed to the X-Terminators in their first meeting big time, 91-63, and the win was sweet revenge at it tightened the former's grip on the top spot in the team standings with its 8-1 slate.

The victory was also the third in a row for G4S in the second round of the regular season, as the league-leading team also thwarted host Shirley's last Friday, 89-86.

In two straight games, Junar Guiab combined for 44 points, making 26 against the X-Terminators and 18 against Shirley's. Manolito Basa led G4S against the host with his 21 markers and also finished in double figures versus the X-Terminators adding 15.

The X-Terminators suffered back-to-back defeats, as they also lost to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Friday.

Advance still led by nine points, 75-66, with 4:53 left in the fourth quarter, when Fiesta rallied and stole the game.

A triple from Ariel Jinang capped a Fiesta 13-2 rally and gave the team the lead, 79-77, with less than two minutes remaining in the game.

Elmer Esdrelon and Jinang added a couple more baskets, while Ferdie Dela Torre made two free throws and another two-pointer to preserve the win for Fiesta.

Fiesta now moves up to second place with its 5-2 slate and holds a 2-0 head-to-head record against Advance, which dropped from second to third place with a 5-3 mark.

In the other game last Monday night, Pacific Trading, Co. broke its three-game losing skid with a 69-64 triumph over Micronesian Brokers, Inc.

PTC held MBI to only four field goals in the fourth quarter to turn a 48-53 deficit to a five-point win.

On offense, PTC leaned on the returning Jojo Garon and Erlan Lansang in the fourth quarter to grab the victory. Garon missed PTC's last three games and scored 14 points in his return, nailing seven in the final canto. Lansang also tallied seven points in the fourth quarter and finished with a game-high 25 markers.

PTC improved to a 2-5 record, while MBI absorbed its sixth loss in six games.

Friday's Games
First Game

Fiesta 89 – Esdrelon 25, Jinang 14, Dela Torre 13, J. Ong 13, Mojar 7, Salazar 7, Licop 6, Garcia 2, Moran 2, Solidum 2.

Advance 80 – Olaitiman 33, Ritual 14, Apostol 11, Lontoc 8, Daprosa 8, Capillan 4, Luna 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-26, 43-48, 54-67, 89-80.

Second Game

G4S 89 – Basa 21, Guiab 18, Chavez 13, Banatasa 13, Larioza 6, Sison 6, Soriano 6, Urrea 2, Aquino 2.

Shirley's 86 – Sedillo 23, Galario 17, Laxa 10, Nicdao 16, Catungal 8, Drilon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-14, 37-35, 63-59, 89-86.

Monday's Games
First Game

PTC 69 – Lansang 25, Garon 14, Pangelinan 10, Obnimaga 7, Sarmiento 5, Babauta 4, Maglaya 2, Hocog 2.

MBI 64 – Nonato 24, Barbo 12, Sese 10, Alvarez 8, Trajano 8, Cabrera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-18, 29-31, 48-53, 69-64.

Second Game

G4S 85 – Guiab 26, Basa 15, Sison 13, Larioza 6,Urrea 6, Banatasa 5, Aquino 5, Caras 5, Chavez 2.

Advance 67 – Olaitiman 20, Ritual 19, Apostol 12, Daprosa 6, Relata 4, Gozon 2, Capillan 2, Mercurio 1, Libres 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-13, 34-37, 64-53, 85-67.

GLOVER

From Page 28

off three straight birdies on the back nine to tie for the lead as the No. 882 player in the world tried to show why he was No. 1 a decade ago.

His hopes ended with a five-foot par putt on the 17th that spun 180 degrees out of the cup, and his silver medal was no consolation.

"I stand before you certainly happy with how I played, but extremely disappointed in the outcome," Duval said. "I had no question in my mind I was going to win the golf tournament today."

Ricky Barnes was the long shot who didn't last very long with the 54-hole lead. He shot 40 on the front nine to turn control over to Glover, and wound up shooting a 76 to join Mickelson and Duval in a tie for second.

Glover didn't have a compelling storyline, just the kind of golf that wins a U.S. Open in any conditions.

He made only one birdie in the rain-delayed final round, and it could not have been timed any better. Tied for the lead with three holes to play, he split the middle of the fairway and had 173 yards left to the hole at No. 16.

It was a smooth 8-iron, like thousands he has hit on the driving range. It landed six feet from the cup.

"The putt was all you could ever ask for under pressure," Glover said.

His caddie, Don Cooper, helped him with the read and told him, "There's no way we're missing this."

"It would have went in a thimble," Cooper said.

Glover arrived at the 17th tee in time to see that Duval had made bogey and that Mickelson earlier had dropped a shot there, too. Suddenly, he was two shots ahead, and he made sure the U.S. Open didn't have a surprise ending.

The 18th tee was moved forward to play 364 yards, and the record will reflect that Glover hit a 6-iron off the tee and a 9-iron to the green on the final hole of his U.S. Open victory.

No matter. His name is on the trophy, right under Tiger Woods, in the same company as so many greats.

"I hope I don't downgrade it or anything with my name on there," Glover quipped. "It's an honor, and I'm just excited and happy as I can be to be on here."

Glover finished at 4-under 276 and earned $1.35 million, moving from No. 71 to 18th in the world.

The 29-year-old from South Carolina, who chews tobacco and listens to Sinatra, had not won since holing out a bunker shot on the final hole at Disney nearly four years ago.

CNMI

From Page 28

In the end, Guam routed the CNMI, 101-64.

Guam scored 76 points in the paint, compared to the host's measly 12. Guam also drew a lot of help from its second stringers, getting 62 points off the bench against the CNMI's 26.

Both teams played erratic, as the humid condition in the jam-packed gym made the ball and the floor slippery. The CNMI committed 48 errors with Guam turning them into 20 points. Guam had 41 errors but the CNMI Men's Nationals managed to score only nine off those miscues.

The visitors also moved the ball well and played better as a team, getting 22 assists compared to CNMI's nine.

On offense, Guam shot better from the field going 47-for-76 for a 55 percent clip. The CNMI posted 30 percent field goal shooting, hitting only 19-for-63. The host performed better from the 3-point area with its 9-for-20 shooting against Guam's 1-for-3. Iguel went 4-for-7 from downtown, as only he and Jericho Cruz were the lone bright spots on the CNMI's offense. Iguel finished with a team-high 21 points, while Cruz added 19, drilling nine of them from the 3-point region. Dan Barcinas had a quiet 10 points, tallying five of them in the first period.

Guam had a balance offense, having five players scoring in double figures. Joe Blas led the visitors with his double-double, firing 23 markers and getting 11 rebounds. Jine Han also had a double-double with his 15 markers and 11 boards. He added six steals and six assists for an impressive all-around game.

Guam 101 – Blas 23, And. Borja 18, Han 15, Royster 15, Stinnett 12, Estelle 9, Fejeran 7, Ant. Borja 2.

CNMI 64 – Iguel 21, Cruz 19, Barcinas 10, Fitial 8, Chariton 3, Johnson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-15, 46-31, 74-51, 101-64.

TALL

From Page 28

division were played yesterday.

Australia remained unbeaten in two games and joined New Zealand in the lead after whipping Guam, 92-12.

Australia and Guam's game was another classic example of a mismatch with the Opals giving up no points to the latter in the second and fourth quarter. Guam had five points in the first period and added two more in the third canto.

Guam, which still had yet to recover from a beating from Australia, played its second game of the day against New Caledonia in the afternoon and lost anew, 31-47.

Guam finished the round-robin tournament with a 1-3 slate, recording its lone win against the CNMI in the FIBA caging's opening last Sunday.

New Caledonia improved to a 2-1 record.

Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the crossover playoffs with the No. 1 team facing the No. 4 squad for the first finals ticket and the No. 2 and 3 teams colliding for the second finals seat.

In the men's division, Australia is still unbeaten at 3-0, following its 69-47 victory over rival New Zealand.

Australia controlled the game from the opening tip until the final buzzer with Sean Mullan leading the team and scoring in double figures for the third straight game. Mulan paced the Boomers with 15 markers.

In the other men's game, New Caledonia recovered from its debut loss to Australia with an 80-68 triumph over Guam.

New Caledonia's physical defense limited Guam to nine first-quarter points and the CNMI's neighbor never recovered from thereon. The French colony clobbered Guam in the paint with a 40-26 advantage and also drew more points off the bench, 39-8.

D-9ERS

From Page 28

pion Rock Steady in the deciding Game 3 of their semis series last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

D-9ers won the last two games of the best-of-three playoff series to dethrone Rock Steady, which defeated the Ford Rangers in last season's title match.

Rock Steady took the rained-out Game 1 on June 12, 16-10, before the D-9ers recovered in Game 2 last Wednesday with a 10-7 triumph.

The D-9ers kept their momentum in Monday's rubber match to foil a Rangers-Rock Steady rematch.

Pat Camacho pitched in no relief for the D-9ers, allowing only four hits, walking two, striking out four, and having two hit by pitch.

On offense, the D-9ers got off to a good start with second baseman Ben Mesa and centerfielder John Acosta hitting two-run singles apiece at the bottom of the first inning. Acosta also reached home plate on a stolen base giving D-9ers a 5-0 lead. Rock Steady was done in the first inning after only four batters and the best it could do was have Juan Tenorio on first base after a hit by pitch.

Pat Camacho then struck out Rock Steady's first three batters at the top of the second inning and the D-9ers added three more runs, making two off Rock Steady's errors, to increase the lead 8-0.

Rock Steady broke its silence in the third inning behind Eric Lizama and John Reyes' one-run single. The dethroned champion kept its finals bid alive when it added one more run in the fourth and shut out D-9ers in the third and fourth, cutting the lead to five, 3-8.

However, that was the closest that Rock Steady could get, as D-9ers made up for two-inning shutout with an eight-run bottom of the fifth inning. First baseman Greg Camacho led D-9ers' breakaway in the fifth inning with his two-run double, while Bob Lizama, Mel Sakisat and Jeff Tenorio had one-run single each.

The game ended at the top of the seventh inning when the best that Rock Steady could do was have leadoff batter John Reyes reached third base. Actually, Rock Steady had two runners on base with shortstop Toi Celis on second, but Sakisat caught Ben Sablan's grounder and threw to first base for the third out.

Acosta hit 3-for-4 at bat and made three RBIs for the D-9ers. Greg Camacho and Ben Mesa went only 2-for-5 and 2-for-4 at the plate, respectively, but they both had two RBIs each. Overall, the D-9ers went 22-for-40 at the plate for a decent .550 batting average.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	42	27	.609	–
New York	38	31	.551	4
Toronto	38	33	.535	5
Tampa Bay	37	34	.521	6
Baltimore	32	37	.464	10

Central Division

Detroit	38	31	.551	–
Minnesota	35	36	.493	4
Chicago	33	36	.478	5
Kansas City	29	39	.426	8 1/2
Cleveland	29	42	.408	10

West Division

Texas	37	31	.544	–
Los Angeles	36	32	.529	1
Seattle	35	34	.507	2 1/2
Oakland	31	38	.449	6 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	36	31	.537	–
New York	35	33	.515	1 1/2
Florida	35	36	.493	3
Atlanta	33	36	.478	4
Washington	20	47	.299	16

Central Division

St. Louis	39	32	.549	–
Milwaukee	37	32	.536	1
Chicago	34	32	.515	2 1/2
Cincinnati	34	34	.500	3 1/2
Houston	32	35	.478	5
Pittsburgh	31	38	.449	7

West Division

Los Angeles	46	24	.657	–
San Francisco	37	32	.536	8 1/2
Colorado	37	33	.529	9
San Diego	30	38	.441	15
Arizona	29	41	.414	17

Yesterday's Games
Atlanta 2, Chicago Cubs 0
N.Y. Mets 6, St. Louis 4
Colorado 11, L.A. Angels 1
Oakland 5, San Francisco 1

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

FIBA OCEANIA STANDINGS

Men's

Australia	3	0
New Zealand	1	1
New Caledonia	1	1
Guam	1	2
CNMI	0	2

Women's

Australia	2	0
New Zealand	2	0
New Caledonia	2	1
Guam	1	3
CNMI	0	3

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

G4S	8	1
Fiesta	5	2
Advanced	5	3
PTC	2	5
MBI	2	6
Shirley's	1	6

2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Australia's Opals lead the parade of teams during the opening ceremony for the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament last Sunday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CNMI's neighbor, Guam, is the second team to participate in the parade.

New Caledonia players applaud FIBA Oceania president Barbara Wheadon's brief remarks during the opening ceremony.

New Zealand players join the parade of teams.

CNMI players listen to NMASA president and BANMI secretary general Michael A. White's speech.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, joins FIBA Oceania president Barbara Wheadon, center, and FIBA World president Bob Elphinston as guests in the opening rites.

The pool of referees also participated in the opening ceremony.

CNMI's Oscar Ada and Yvonne Bennett recite the players' oath of sportsmanship.

Spectators, guest, players, and coaches were treated to a cultural dance.

NMASA president and BANMI secretary general Michael A. White delivers his brief remarks during the opening ceremony, while guests looks on.

Three in a row for G4S, Fiesta, PTC win

G4S avenged its first round loss to Advance X-Terminators after

cruising to an 85-67 victory in their second round meeting in the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League last Monday. 26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

New look for Centre Court, new look for Federer

Roger Federer thought Centre Court looked smashing, what with its new retractable roof at the ready, all white fabric and steel trusses. 24

Glover holds on for 2-shot win at US Open

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)—Lucas Glover steadied his hands for a 3-foot par putt on the 18th hole, an anticlimatic finish to five dreary days at a U.S. Open filled with more delays than drama.

The unlikely champion turned to soak up a beautiful sight beneath gathering clouds Monday at Bethpage Black.

"I just looked at the scoreboard to make sure this was really happening," Glover said.

Some 24,000 fans, speckled with mud from a long walk soiled, could surely relate.

Glover never lost the lead over the final 12 holes, even though the attention was always on someone else. He closed with a 3-over 73 for a two-shot victory in a U.S. Open that might be remembered more for the week than the winner.

The stage belonged to Phil Mickelson, as it usually does in New York.

Lefty charged into a share of the lead with a startling bid to finally win the Open, his final event before a summer of uncertainty as his wife battles breast cancer. A fairy-tale finish turned all too familiar, however, when Mickelson missed two par putts over the last four holes and wound up setting the wrong kind of record by finishing second for the fifth time in the American national championship.

"Certainly I'm disappointed," Mickelson said. "But now that it's over, I've got more important things going on.

"And," he added, pausing, "oh, well."

Next came David Duval, out of nowhere. Winless in eight years, he ran

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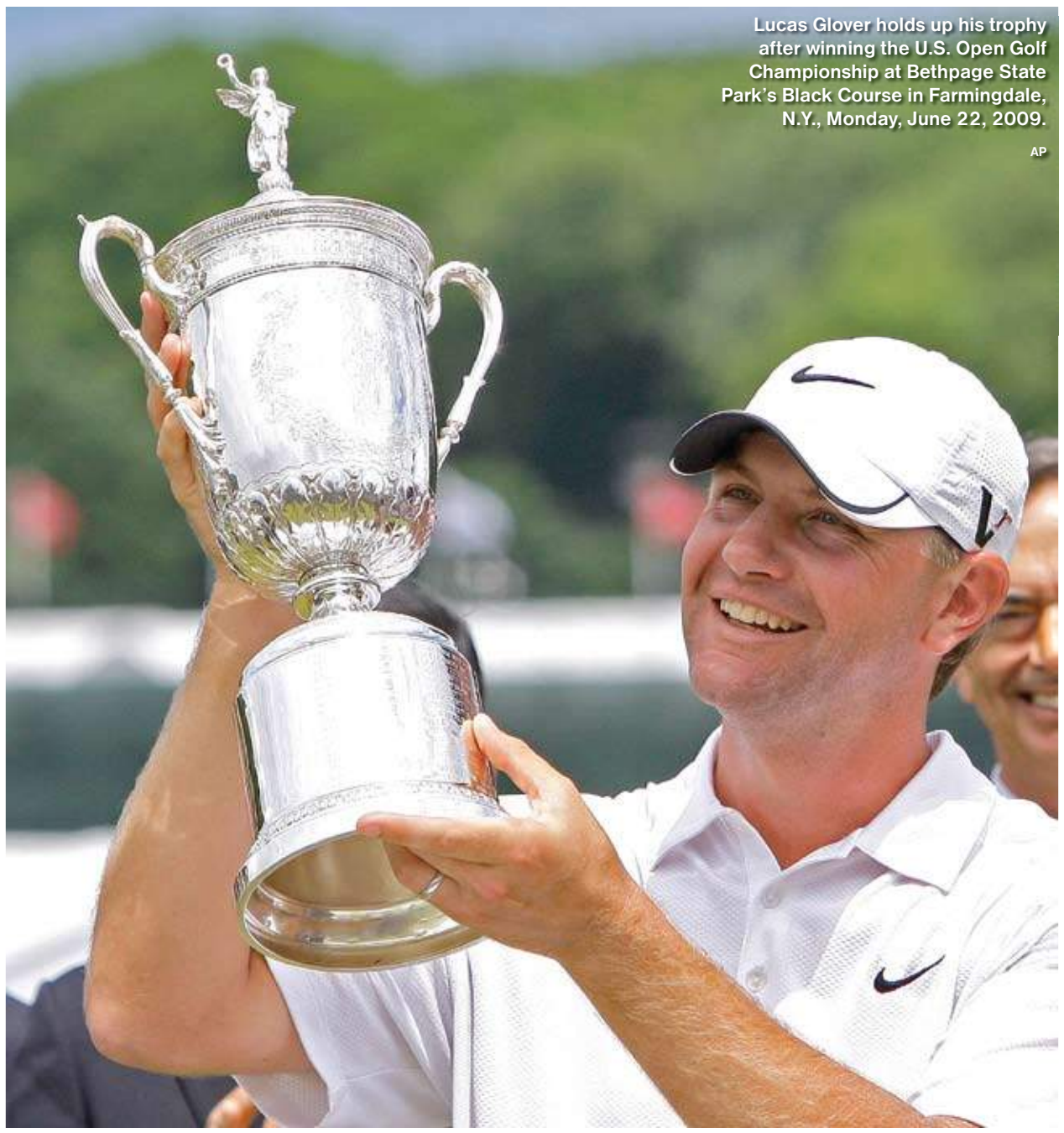

Lucas Glover holds up his trophy after winning the U.S. Open Golf Championship at Bethpage State Park's Black Course in Farmingdale, N.Y., Monday, June 22, 2009.

AP

D-9ers dethrone Rangers, grab last finals spot

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

There will be no finals rematch between Rock Steady and Ford Rangers in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball.

Instead, the Rangers will be facing the D-9ers, who cruised to an easy 16-3 victory over the deposed cham-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

D-9ers third baseman Mel Sakisat heads to their dugout at the bottom of the first inning of the deciding Game 3 of their semis series against Rock Steady in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

CNMI, Guam relive rivalry

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Monday night's last game drew the biggest crowd so far in the ongoing 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament.

Why?

It featured Micronesian rivals, CNMI and Guam.

The CNMI Men's Nationals inspired by the home crowd packed inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium showed some brilliance that could have threatened the favored Guam team, but only in the first few minutes of the first quarter.

Pete Iguel, Dan Barcinas, and Jericho Cruz anchored the CNMI's good start, giving the team a 10-5 lead at the 2:25 mark in the first period.

However, Guam players, after hearing their coaches shouting from the sidelines and telling them not to play with the crowd, had a 16-5 windup to end the first quarter with a 25-15 lead.

Since then, the CNMI Men's Nationals could not stop the bleeding, as they threw the ball several times, missed layups and long jumpers, and failed to neutralize Guam's inside game and fastbreak plays.

Spectators, who numbered around 1,000, started to leave the gym in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter, as not even their loud cheers could prevent Guam from dominating the CNMI on most aspects of the game.

See CNMI on Page 26

Guam's Joe Blas goes for a reverse layup against CNMI's Pete Iguel during their game in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tall Ferns crush CNMI; *Boomers still unbeaten*

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

New Zealand's women's basketball team was simply too much for the CNMI Women's Nationals yesterday, as the Tall Ferns clobbered the host, 139-27, in Day 3 of the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament.

Not even the air-conditioned court at the Marianas High School Gymnasium could cool off the blazing guns of the visitors, who pounded the CNMI cagebelles in the paint with a 108-10 edge.

New Zealand's towering players never gave the CNMI Women's Nationals a chance to take the lead, as the Tall Ferns limited the host to two points in the first five minutes of the game.

After 10 minutes, the Tall Ferns were way ahead, 31-4. The CNMI Women's Nationals improved their scoring to double digits in the last three quarters, but still there was no way they could keep up with New Zealand's offensive prowess.

The Tall Ferns had three players scoring 20-plus points with Miriam Slatter nailing 29, Marinda Caldwell adding 13, and Zoe Kensington chipping in 21.

Connie Camacho was the lone double-figure scorer for the hosts with 16, while the five other CNMI cagebelles who scored were held to a field goal apiece.

Two more games in the women's

See TALL on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

New Caledonia's Yolaine Koteureu is clobbered by three Guam defenders during their women's division game in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.